



## Bernal Residents Divided Over Farmer's Market & Market Heights

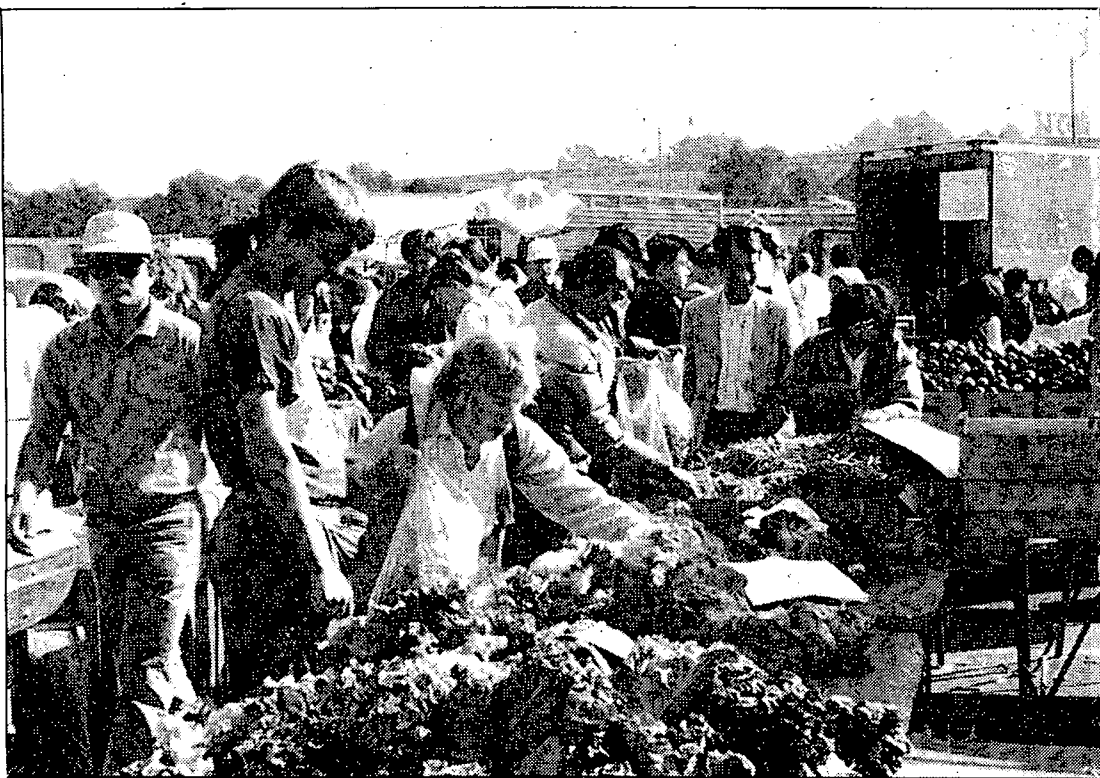


Photo by Vicki Victoria

Is the Farmer's Market in danger of being suffocated out or is it a case of NIMBY?

By Vicki Victoria

The question of the Market Heights Affordable Housing Development has had Bernal Heights stirring over the last several months. The Bernal Heights Community Foundation's (BHCF) plans to build 120 affordable rental townhouses and apartments for working families above the parking lot area at the rear of the Farmer's Market on Alemany and Bayshore Boulevards.

Many of the residents who live around the immediate Farmer's Market area are very opposed to the proposed "Market Heights" development by the BHCF. The neighbors feel that the housing development is just too big for an area that is already congested with traffic problems and is too noisy. Carol Lynn Davis of Nevada Street, who has lived in Bernal Heights for over ten years, spends her Saturdays at Farmer's Market, soliciting petition signatures from market shoppers, urging them to call the Board of Supervisors to express their

which hopes to convince the Board of Supervisors that "Market Heights" is not good for Bernal Heights and that the hill targeted for development should be designated as an open space area with a mini-park for everyone's use. She feels that the people in neighborhood are "being ignored" and would rather see the open, planted hill and Farmer's Market left alone. When asked about the need for affordable housing in San Francisco, Davis replies, "The situation will always exist, population is exploding everywhere. Bernal Heights already has its share of low income housing."

Initial fear and anger from residents in the Farmer's Market area arose from a lack of information provided by the BHCF about the affordable housing project. Initially, opponents to the development thought that the BHCF was building another public housing project such as currently existing Alemany Public Housing Projects. At a public hearing on October 8th, this fear and anger was expressed as opponents expressed their concern about having "those people" in their neighborhood. An anonymous letter delivered to Bernal residents prior to the meeting urged residents to attend the public hearing if they were opposed to the plan because "Crimes, violence and drug-related problems will be worse." and that this was the "Last chance to save the neighborhood."

The Gerald Whitehead, the President of the BHCF Board of Directors sees this reaction by opponents as, "A general attitude of the middle class that don't want

affordable housing in their neighborhood." He says "It takes a tremendous amount of education to inform these people that low income people are no different than they are." Whitehead is bothered by the stereotypes of low income people being associated with drugs. Whitehead says that this kind of prejudice will always exist and can not be won over. "But even more importantly, affordable housing is urgently needed for our city's children. The children living in substandard housing today are going to grow up to be tomorrow's adults. They need a decent, safe place to live and grow."

Margaret Maker who lives on Banks Street understands why

**Maker: "Because communication wasn't good, it caused anger."**



neighbors in the market area are so upset, "Almost all the homeowners are worried about protecting their property value. As a homeowner, I would be upset, too. But as a member of the PH & D Committee (Planning, Housing & Development), I had enough information to know that this was not a public housing project." She says that there should have been many more community meetings and that outreach should have been more thoroughly done several months ago, "Because communication wasn't good, it caused anger. No one was really contacted."

The BHCF hired Mindy Linetzky as a Community Organizer a few of months ago to organize the much needed outreach

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## How to Fight Crime In Bernal Heights

*Arnold Feldman of Elsie Street recalls his days as a young boy in New York, "I use to go for walks in Bronx Park at 11:00 at night and for a dime a kid could go to Coney Island by himself. By the time I was 30, my four year old would play in the park where the grass had turned to broken glass...gunshots started to move North...the city became unlivable for us. And now, here I am in San Francisco, seeing the beginnings of the same kind of thing. I want to say that the only answer is more police, and as many police as is necessary to stop them."*

The hiring of more police officers is a solution that many Bernal residents feel will help ease the rise in crime. Feldman admits and accepts that fact that hiring more officers means more taxes, but still feels its a bargain in the long run and is enthusiastic to pay. "It's much cheaper than having to pay for the break in of your car, its much cheaper to pay more tax than it is to pay for a knife wound or a rape." Feldman emotionally stated, recalling the beatings and muggings of his relatives as examples to illustrate his point.

Bernal Heights lost several young people this past summer from shootings in our neighborhood. Crimes such as muggings, home burglaries and numerous car break-ins have risen in Bernal. The neighbors have had enough. At a Police Commissioners Meeting held in Bernal Heights in October, the residents said that the answer to crime was more police. "This is one of the largest police areas in the city," says Charles Bolton, Co-Chair of the Northwest Bernal Block Club, "We stretch from Army Street all the way out to Daly City and we only have 80 officers out there, and those aren't out there at full time at any one time." Bolton says that the Mission, which is a smaller area,

supposedly has a larger crime rate and therefore has more officers. Bolton says that this reasoning will lead to the deterioration of Bernal, "If you're going to use this body count mentality for assigning officers, this area is going to become intolerable if we have to reach the same levels of crime as the Mission to get more officers."

Lynn Scott also agrees that immediate attention to the rising crime is the only way to stop it. Living on the East side of Holly Park, she and her neighbors have witnessed an alarming increase of car break-ins, "We would like to nip this problem in the bud, right this moment."

Captain Philpott of the Ingle-side Station, which covers the Bernal Heights area, says that that these car break-ins are on the rise since mandatory sentences were established for criminals who burglarize homes. "Now, a lot of burglars are going after cars," says Philpott.

"Its easier to be a criminal because nowadays you can get off easy," says a North West Bernal man, "The criminals don't think the cops are deterrents anymore. It's like a game: "Oh, I'll be in jail a couple of days, no big deal." This man knows the frustration of a system that isn't working. After his van was broken into, he and his family decided to keep vigil every night to find out who was responsible for the break-ins. "After staying up for a number of hours, they finally found a man who was prowling the area, looking into cars," says Gus Gonzales of the North West Bernal Block Club, "They found out that there was a fellah who was breaking into cars, going back into his house, stealing stuff, coming out again. They followed him up and down the street that Friday night." Gonzales says that in between this activity, they called the police department no less than five times. Gonzales is amazed at the help-

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**Davis: "We're being ignored."**

opposition with the development plan. Davis says, "Traffic has already increased and with more cars this area would be impossible." An estimated 30,000 shoppers pass through Farmer's Market on a busy Saturday, causing traffic jams and parking problems in the market and the area around it. Davis isn't satisfied with the plan and is part of the "Task Force to Save Farmer's Market,"

# new Bernal Journal

515 Cortland Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
(415) 648-0330

The *New Bernal Journal* is an open forum of the community sponsored by the Bernal Heights Community Foundation. It is dedicated to providing the people of Bernal Heights with neighborhood news, ideas, issues, and events. Articles express the views of contributors and not necessarily those of the Community Foundation.

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## Letters

### Grateful to "The Hill"

I must say the obvious - how phenomenally this paper represents such a wide spectrum of people. It is very San Franciscan, and wonderfully true in depicting Bernal Heights.

As the American Indian part of the Bernal spectrum, my son and I are trying to model the incredible possibilities of making a better life through things available here. Mike Noon's Bernal Heights Housing Rehabilitation Program is culminating a process begun May 1989 in getting me a loan. This is a great boon as my ongoing struggle to maintain mobility (I was born with spina bifida and a car accident didn't help - except to introduce me to my work as a Feldenkrais Practitioner) sadly limited my financial ability to repair my house.

I'm very grateful to "the Hill" and the delight of having lived here and the real nurturing the Bernal Heights Community Foundation has provided - with your paper and the community's struggle for a good quality of life.  
-Yours Truly, Felicia N. Trujillo

### Good Samaritan

The residents on Ellsworth from Cortland to Crescent have an angel on their street. A little gray haired lady systemically goes up and down the street cleaning up trash and debris. Bernal residents should take a lesson from this good Samaritan who removes grass from the cracks in the sidewalks and driveways using very simple tools and a determination to rid the street of all its trash. The lady refuses to give her name, and answers "Puddin' Tane" with a big smile when you ask her name. We residents salute you dear lady, I know you have motivated this resident to clean up his area.

-Grateful Neighbors,  
William Owen & Ed Davis of  
Ellsworth Street

### Keep the Old Neighborhood

I feel that the proposed 120 unit development would effectively destroy the market as we know it. The Foundation, with a membership as small as it is, put in jeopardy the oldest and biggest Farmer's Market in California - which was originally created by a city wide referendum. To suggest the Foundation represents a majority of Bernal Heights residents is deceptive. Anyone who was at the Foundation's October 8th meeting (as reported in the Independent) could see the overwhelming majority were against the development. Yet the Foundation went ahead and the Bernal Journal did not report the sentiment expressed at the meeting.

Certain Foundation representatives have also tried to lull neighborhood concerns by insisting that we were at just the beginning of the process. Those of us who attended the Supervisors' Finance Committee on October 31st found out that had 2 of 3 Supervisors present (Walker, Hallinan, Maher) voted in favor of the Disposition presented the Foundation would have had a legal right to enter into a lease with the City for Farmer's Market land for 99

years.

Anyone who wishes to register concern about the proposed development should call or write the Supervisors at City Hall. Let them know you want to keep the old neighborhood.

- Sincerely,  
Donna Galloway-Ehmann

*The New Bernal Journal's October/November '90 issue was published on October 3rd, before the meeting on the 8th.*

- Editor.

### Keep Our Community Diverse & Exciting

Who are these people who slipped an anonymous notice of a meeting opposing "Market Heights" into my mailbox? The notice, hysterical and inflammatory, rails on about crime, drugs, violence and traffic that will supposedly place us under siege, all because some affordable housing may be built in Bernal Heights. The authors must have been too embarrassed by the content of the notice since they didn't even have the courage or responsibility to identify themselves. No name, no contact number! Who are these people who find it necessary to hide under the cloak of anonymity? Are they even residents of Bernal Heights? Anonymous notices spreading fear are tactics of bigots and don't reflect the progressive, multi-cultural and caring community of Bernal Heights that I take pride in.

When one calmly looks at what is being proposed here, doesn't it come down to a motherhood issue? Affordable housing for moderate income people: annual incomes of \$18,000 - \$40,000 per household. Even those who can think of nothing but their property values should pause long enough to realize what an asset this will be to our area. Look at the units already built by the Bernal Heights Community Foundation. The Coleridge Park Homes and Holladay Avenue Homes are both attractive developments that fit well into all aspects of their environments. Come on Bernal Heights! I know you to be an intelligent, creative and diverse community with imagination. Let's have no more anonymous bigotry and fear. Let's keep our community one that is diverse and exciting. Let's seize the opportunity to do something exciting in a corner of our community that can use a little help.  
-Derek Rainer, Bronte Street

### A No-Win Situation

As a ten year resident of the Hill, and a supporter of the Foundation, in principal, I am also appalled at the innuendos and accusations flung from both sides about a serious issue that affects the quality of life of all the residents and neighbors of the Hill.

I am strongly opposed to this development project for the following reasons:

1) The project should not be built on the proposed site. Other options should have been given more consideration. Why was the Farmer's Market chosen over

other sites that were more accessible and less devastating to the quality of life of the neighbors and residents?

2) Those who have examined the documentation [have little doubts in their mind] that the infrastructure has many serious weaknesses. Infrastructure improvements [are needed] to insure the stability of this side of the hill.

The proposed density (2 - 3 times as high as current levels) simply does not fit with the existing neighborhood, nor with the architecture. 120 units, 300 - 530 new occupants, and potentially 240 - 350 automobiles - these are frightening numbers when one considers the impact on the surrounding neighborhood and the Farmer's Market, and the impact on the people who will be living in this development project. This is not realistic for this area.

3) The "process" that the development project has gone through has been one of fostering distrust between the residents, neighbors, farmers and users of the Market, and the BHCF. [It] leaves everyone with the impression that this development project is being rammed down residents' throats. Further alienation of neighbors will raise fears of the imminent demise of the Farmer's Market - and that is the reality none of us want to have occur.

Neither the BHCF or the City can or will guarantee the Market can and will remain operational during the [building] process. This is not an issue of "NIMBY" ("not in my backyard"), nor is it one of racism - it is a matter of the economies of scale and the quality of life on the Hill. In my opinion, the BHCF should get back to the business of doing what the by-laws state as the of its purpose - II (a) the specific and primary purposes to operate for charitable and educational purpose

It is time to focus our energies not on fighting over what is clearly a no win situation, but on the task of building the kinds of housing people in the neighborhood want and need. Had people been notified early on, this whole fiasco could have been avoided.

-Sincerely, John Blackburn,  
Bradford Street

### Distorting the Issue

I am very disappointed in some of my neighbors who seem to have distorted the issue of the housing in the Farmer's Market area. This issue is not, "Save the Farmer's Market." The market will be preserved. There is no plan to diminish the market in any way.

As I see it - housing will bring improvements to the market which could not be funded any other way. Improvements from simple things like curb cuts and pedestrian right of way markings to major things like landscaping and better sewer lines.

As a homeowner and Bernal Heights Resident near the Farmer's Market, I am not worried that the proposed housing will diminish the neighborhood.

-Judith G. Theodori,  
Crescent Avenue

## Thank You, Arthur!



Photo by Vicki Victoria

A fond send-off for Arthur Kalson, former New Bernal Journal Editor. BHCf Staff pictured from top left: Helen Helfer, Executive Director, Mike Noon, Housing Rehab Director, Jose Leon, Youth Job Coordinator. Bottom left: Mary Foy, Senior Program Assistant, Arthur Kalson, Past NBJ Editor, Jeffrey Bachman, Fiscal Manager and Stella Loasiga, Secretary.

## Note From the Editor...

I am very enthusiastic about taking on the immense duty of Editor of the New Bernal Journal. As a Graphic Artist, putting the paper together will be artistically challenging and satisfying. Keeping the paper a community forum that reports on and celebrates the issues, events, news and ideas in Bernal Heights is my goal.

I inherited this position from one helluva guy named Arthur Kalson, who poured his heart and soul into the NBJ to develop the paper's impressive design styles, cover a multitude of community stories and issues and develop a friendly repore with the local merchants who help to support the NBJ with their advertisements. With such a mentor, it was a fairly easy transition for this Bernal native and resident.

Bernal Heights is an unique neighborhood and one of the last in the city that can truly claim its boasts of social, cultural and ethnic diversity. It is a neighborhood where community support and involvement is active and strong. I'd like the New Bernal Journal's contents to reflect these characteristics of our community.

The NBJ depends on the Bernal Heights community for support in many ways: Volunteer distributors deliver the paper to Bernal residences, readers subscribe and community members write stories, poetry, articles and take photographs to contribute to each bi-monthly issue. Let me know if you would like to be a part of the NBJ!

- Vicki Victoria, Editor

## MARKET HEIGHTS

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activities and community meetings. In response to the concerns of "very low income rental housing units" Linetzky says, "The 120 affordable rental townhouses and apartments are being developed for working families. Folks' incomes must be high enough to afford the rent. For example, a single parent with one child could earn up to \$28,550 a year and pay \$655 a month for a 2 bedroom apartment. This is not public housing."

Maker, who is a Realtor, should technically be upset by the proposed housing development. She says the needs of affordable housing is important as Bernal Heights goes through sociological and economical changes. "In order to buy a \$200,000 house in Bernal, you have to have a down payment of \$40,000 and earn an income of about \$60,000 per year, minimum."

San Francisco is desperately in need of affordable housing, but also in need as open space. Lurilla Harris of Putnam Street has coordinated the area's Nevada/Putnam Block Club for 12 years, as well as the plight to make the hill above Farmer's Market an open space area with more trees and a mini-park. She says, "Several years ago we informed the BHCf's board of directors that the neighborhood wanted a park and open space in the area that is now proposed for an outrageous 120 rental units. This is a "R-1" owner-occupied neighborhood!" Harris feels that the 120 proposed housing units would put too many additional people and their cars in a congested area that already suffers from the loss of oxygen-producing trees, plants and shrubs on the hill. She says, "The site is only a block from where two major freeways cross with bumper to bumper traffic for hours on a daily basis. We need more open space and greenery."

Harris feels that the BHCf is not listening to the neighbors around the Farmer's Market area, "The BHCf claims it is here to "empower" the community. Why hasn't it empowered us to get the mini-park and open space we want? Why is it attempting to go ahead with a proposal that has 3,000 signatures opposing it?"

BHCf Board Member, Norma Jean Planiczka, believes that the board is genuinely trying to preserve the diversity of the community by providing the im-



Photo by Vicki Victoria

Market Shoppers study the architect's model of the proposed Market Heights. BHCf Community Organizer, Mindy Linetzky (second from the right) explains the idea of housing on a platform above the market parking.

portant need of affordable housing in Bernal Heights. She says that the equating of affordable housing with public housing projects is the underlying fear that is covered up in the "fight" to save Farmers' Market, "Don't touch this market actually means: "We don't want those people in our neighborhood."

**Planiczka: "Don't touch this market actually means, "We don't want those people in our neighborhood."**

Some neighbors agree that affordable housing is very important and needed in Bernal Heights. However, they feel that 120 units is just too many for the intended area. Helen Helfer, Executive Director of the BHCf says the reason for planning for 120 units, as opposed to a lesser number, is to subsidize a childcare center in the housing development for the working families.

In response to those who say that the BHCf is a "greedy developer" Helfer responds, "We are a non-profit organization under the IRS Tax Code

501 (c)(3). We have provided youth, senior and affordable housing services in our community for over ten years." She says that in seven to fifteen years, any revenue generated from the rentals of Market Heights units would go towards developing more affordable housing.

The majority of the farmers who bring their produce to Farmers Market also oppose the idea of 120 units of housing in their market, feeling threatened by the project. Stella Caramucci's family has been selling eggs at the market for over 15 years. She feels that one of factors of the success of the Farmer's Market is the openness of the area. "Three, four stories of apartments right there would be a mountain towering over us...it wouldn't be open anymore." She also observes the tremendous growth of the market

**Caramucci: "There would be a mountain towering over us."**



itself: "There are new farmers now, the Vietnamese farmers who bring more of their produce

Continued on next page

## Letters - continued

### Finding a Decent Place

I am 22 years old, married with a beautiful 2 year old girl and am a fourth generation San Franciscan. I am just beginning my career in the business world downtown with a trainee position. My family now lives in an illegal basement apartment, but the building has just been sold and we are being evicted as the new owner wants the unit for himself. We are now faced with paying \$800 - \$1,000 per month for a decent apartment. Our budget allows only \$700 maximum per month for rent, and even that is high on our present income. We have looked at units in Bernal ranging from \$750 for a one bedroom to \$1,350 for a small house. The only decent place we've seen that we could afford is a one room studio with kitchen and bath for \$650.

My family is not alone in facing this situation; there are thousands like us in the city today who are faced with rents we can not afford and consequently are having to rear our children in sub-standard housing. That is why I strongly support housing such as that proposed at Farmer's Market. We would love to live at the Farmer's Market where food we can afford would be right next door. I think rental housing like this is really important for families like mine as it would give us rent we could afford and give us a chance to save some money for hopefully buying a house someday. -Matthew O'Leary

### Benefits Could Never Outweigh the Costs

To build housing at Farmers' Market seems a very bad idea from the common sense point of view.

First, the site has been used by the market for close to fifty years and for the last few years it has been growing and diversifying with the impact of different ethnic groups in San Francisco. So, right now when other communities create markets modelled after our San Francisco market, the developers propose high den-

sity housing on the Market site alluding that both can co-exist. I think that this is a very wrong conclusion. Extremely dense housing and an open air market which requires continuous ingress and egress for patrons are not compatible uses of the same land.

Second, the immediate neighborhood of the site consists of single family dwellings. There are steep slopes and the streets are narrower than in any other part of the City. There will be absolutely no open space and children will have to play in the bushes under the freeway.

The developers propose one garage space for each unit, some of which are four bedroom units. Because the development will be about two or three times as dense as the surrounding area, there will be no street parking available for second cars which would have to spill into the existing streets and suffocate the neighborhood completely.

Third, the proposed low cost housing would be substandard. It would be adjacent to a busy freeway exchange with all the noise and air pollution as well as the 4:00 am noise of the farmers setting up their stalls.

Statistics show that high density low cost housing is not successful in that the tenants can not be integrated into the existing neighborhood. The impact on this neighborhood will be traumatic and suffocating.

I understand that San Francisco needs low cost housing is actually required to provide a certain percentage. However, if we would look only at Bernal Heights, we probably would find that this part of San Francisco has already more than the required percentages.

To build the 120 units means to sacrifice the unique San Francisco institution of the Farmer's Market. This seems very foolish and shortsighted to me. The benefit could never outweigh the loss to the whole community of San Francisco.

-Ingrid Hoppe

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## MARKET HEIGHTS

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attract many new customers." She says that the farmers themselves have a lack of stalls to sell their produce and don't appreciate any more pressure for space, "In fifteen years, we've been selling to the same customers every week and now their children come and buy from us. The development would mean no more space for the market and no more space is a threat. The market would be fin-

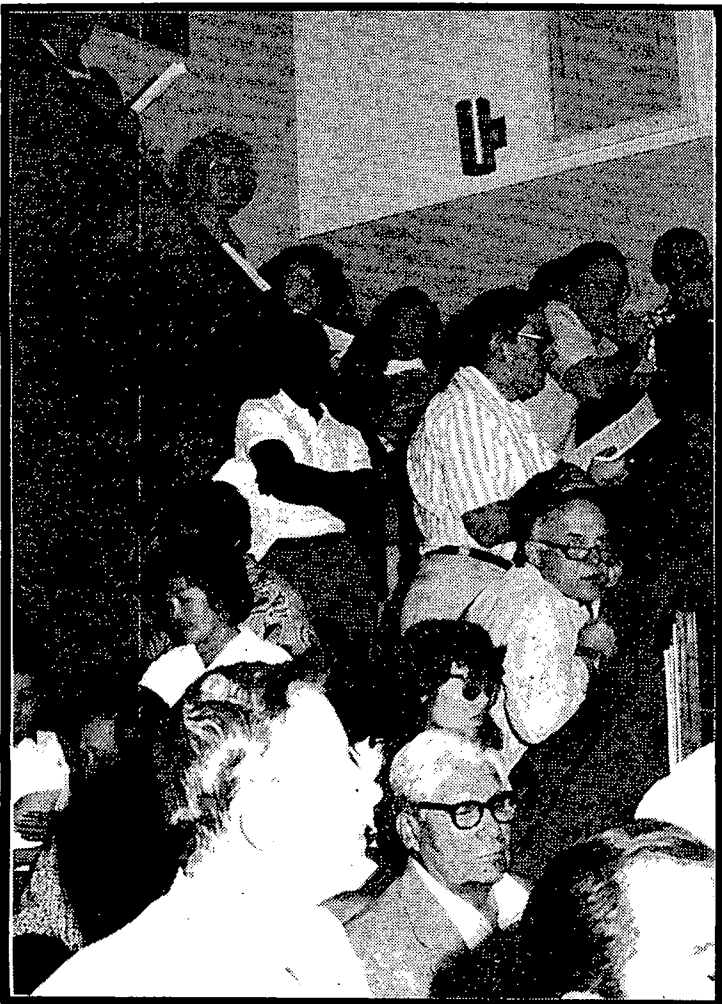
fortunately, as the inevitable gridlock sets in, it also becomes a traffic congested and polluted place. Basically, six days per week it is an unlandscaped, litter-strewn, underutilized parking lot." He says that is annoyed by the arguments put forth by those opposed to the development that say it will destroy Farmer's Market, "The Market Heights plan calls for sprucing up the market stalls, landscaping and traffic improvements. This proposal is attractive and has the added bonus of improving a

leave their bottles and cans dumped there."

The market eventually reimburses the city for capital improvements through the fees collected from farmers. Farmers pay an average of \$28.50 to rent a stall on a Saturday, enabling them to make a fair profit from the long trips and haul from outside of the city. Some farmers of the market would like to see improvements to the market, such as painting and better parking and traffic conditions. But it's hard to imagine that the stall rental fees alone could accumulate enough revenue to pay the salary of three staff members, a \$900 a week Scavenger bill and still generate enough to repair the stalls or finance a major project such as re-designing current traffic flow of the market.

BHCF Community Organizer Linetsky says that the Market Heights development will enhance the market, "Working with the Department of Agriculture, we're trying to upgrade the stalls, adjust the parking spaces, improve traffic flow and spruce up the market." With this promise, the Market Heights development could actually prove to be the true savior Farmers' Market which sits on precious, valuable city-owned land. As the city faces huge budget deficits, it seems that it is only a matter of time before it is tempted by a private developer to sell the land and move the market to a less expensive lot on the outskirts of the city.

Since its origins in 1943 at Duboce and Market Streets, (the site where Safeway currently stands) the market has had a history of struggling to exist. The most notable fight was the competition of the Retail Grocers Association to lead a campaign



The Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center overflowed with neighbors who opposed the proposed housing at a Public Hearing on October 8th.

photo by Jeffrey Bachman

ished."

Toby Garrone has been selling a wide variety of mushrooms in Farmer's Market for eight years. While she likes the idea of affordable housing, Garrone can't imagine how the parking problem could improve. Garrone refers to the model that shows a platform that would preserve the existing parking spaces in the market, elevating part of the housing development over it. "The parking problem will be the same, if not worse. That's not helping the market."

problem area. This can be a situation where everybody wins."

Owned and operated by the City of San Francisco, Farmer's Market has received very little improvement on its own. With budget deficits restricting funds available, management has been very frugal about requesting improvements to the market. Farmer's Market Manager Mary Vienot says, "When we ask for money [for improvement], we have to wait a number of years to get it." As an example she refers to the awnings above the stalls



**Rainer: "Six days per week it is an unlandscaped, litter-strewn, underutilized parking lot."**

There is one fact that both sides of the development project agree on: that Farmer's Market is a wonderful place to experience the pleasure of open air shopping, a wide variety of quality fruits and vegetables at low prices and the ability to meet the farmers who raised the produce themselves. On a sunny Saturday, every stall and parking space is occupied and thousands of shoppers buy farm fresh produce for their families. Derek Rainer who lives on Bronte Street says, "On Saturday mornings the market is alive, exciting and a vibrant place. Un-

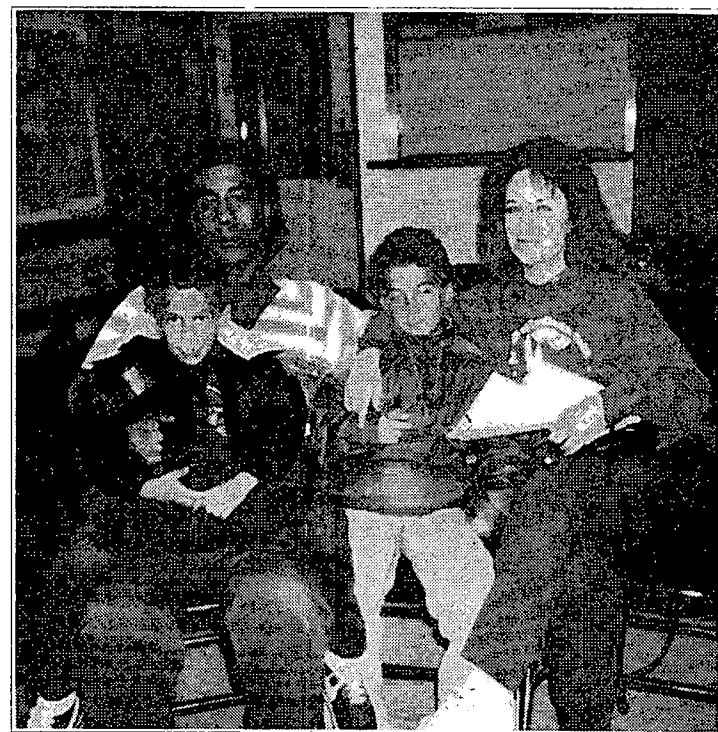
that took a few years to have installed and lines painted on the tar to establish parking spaces.

Vienot's main concern about the market area is the illegal dumping on the grounds, "I've had to run out there and take down license plate numbers and descriptions of cars to give to the police." Her actions have been successful in the citing of the offenders, but people continue to leave the market area strewn with their garbage, "The recycling center has been closed since June (due to the initiation of curb side recycling in the community) and people still

against the Farmers' Market becoming a permanent market and for appropriation of a new site. The voters' triumphed and the City purchased a military housing site at 100 Alemany. The housing was cleared and in 1947 the City opened the new Farmers' Market. Today, many doubt that the market can survive next to a housing development.

Market Heights architect, Robert Herman, says "I've been around the world and have seen wonderful market places that bring the town together. And those market places are always surrounded by housing. Markets and housing are natural partners." He feels that currently the land is being wasted, used only one out of seven days when land in San Francisco is so precious, "All we did was to cover the place for parking cars and put houses, good looking houses, on top of it."

Herman says that his firm has focused on building affordable housing for 20 years, "Everyone wins, as with everything



John, Cheryl, Andre and Terry are interested in living in Market Heights, which they feel will provide decent, safe affordable housing.

we've built. With good looking housing, property values always go up." He says that he always has two experiences when building affordable housing. One is that "People will enjoy marvelous housing. The other is to meet people who are full of fear and afraid of what will happen. It just doesn't have to be one group of people who can afford to live in Bernal."

The majority of the applicants for the Market Heights housing live, work, have family in or have grown up in Bernal Heights. Doris Burke would like to return to the sun, shops and programs in Bernal, "I used to live there [near Folsom] but my father passed away and my mother couldn't afford to pay the rent. So we had to move. I really love and miss Bernal Heights."

Noreen Ahern who currently lives on Crescent Avenue can no

Francisco just because they can't afford rents?" Ahern says that the things she's been hearing in her neighborhood makes her angry, "People with homes here now don't understand the rights of renters. We don't have anything to do with drugs and crime. We're decent people who have a right to decent housing."

Caritas Management Corporation will be the prospective managers of the new housing development. Their extensive background checks would make it impossible for "bad tenants" to live in Market Heights. Frank Santiago of Caritas says, "We search court records make sure that you haven't been evicted for having abused or vandalized your past units or failed repeatedly to pay your rent." The management company thoroughly establishes an applicants' prospects of being a "good tenant" by verifying their income and requiring two recommendations from the applicant's present and past landlords. They also schedule a site visit to the applicant's current residence to inspect and assess their care and maintenance of their home. Caritas says his corporation does such a stringent applicant process to "Defeat the stereotype of people living in affordable housing units as bad tenants."

A good neighborhood and safety, both real and the feel of, are high priorities amongst the housing applicants, especially for

Continued on next page

## Market Heights: Affordable Housing for Families

The Bernal Heights Community Foundation is proposing an affordable family housing development near the Farmer's Market. If you think you qualify for one of the units and would like more information, please fill out the form below and mail it to: BHCF, 515 Cortland Ave, San Francisco, CA 94110.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Size of unit needed: 1 BD \_\_\_\_\_ 2 BD \_\_\_\_\_ 3 BD \_\_\_\_\_ 4 BD \_\_\_\_\_

Current Income Maximums  
(1990 figures, adjusted every year):

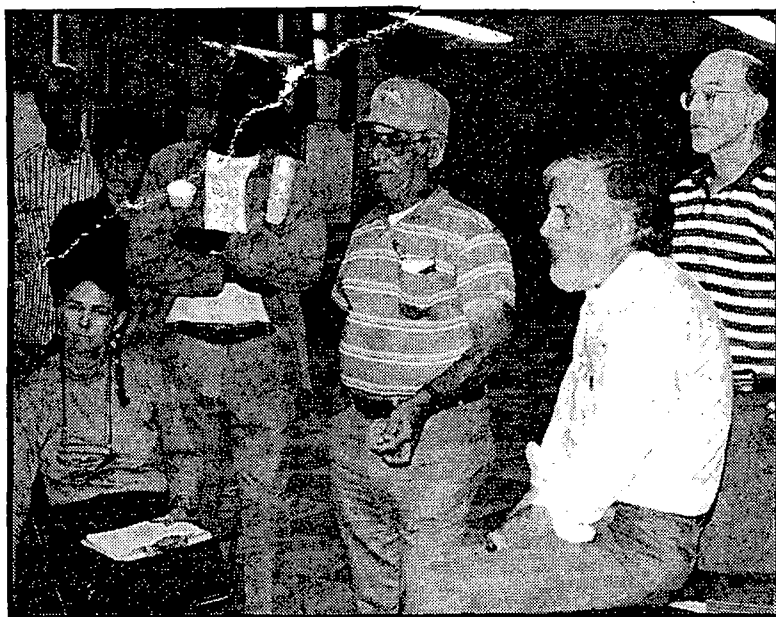
For a family of 1: \$18,100  
For a family of 2: 28,550  
For a family of 3: 32,150  
For a family of 4: 35,700  
For a family of 5: 37,950  
For a family of 6: 40,150

## MARKET HEIGHTS

Continued from page 4

their children. Robert Herman shows the model for Market Heights as having four "townhouses" that encircle a courtyard for children to play in. Each of these four families will have their own garage. The newly created street that will run through Market Heights will contain curves, hills and bumps to force cars to drive at slow speeds. The BHCF says that a security guard will man the housing development to insure further safety.

A mother of two daughters, Carmi Johnson currently lives in Potrero Hill and is studying to be a stationary engineer. She enjoys Farmers' Market and feels assured that it will remain unaffected. Safety of herself and her children is what interested her in applying for Market Heights, "I want to get out of this neighborhood mainly because of the crime. I want to live in a community where my car will be safely parked and where my children can safely play outside."



Meeting at St. Anthony's Hall, neighbors in the Precita Park area work with Recreation & Park staff to improve the park's current layout.

photo by Vicki Victoria

consider the safety of the children, "We need a barrier [on the South West end] to keep kids from darting out to the corner store - a barrier that will force them to use the cross walk."

Many of the the neighbors agreed that the biggest problem of Precita Park was drugs and alcohol. "It's a responsibility of the people to pick up the phone and report illegal activities," says Laura Scivitti who has resided in the area for forty years, "It's up to us to fight this problem - especially for the children. They need the park." Neighbors suggested putting in more lighting and sitting areas to help address the problem.

The Coordinator of Special Projects, Tom Chiosso, says that Rec & Park is very interested in re-designing a park that the neighborhood

Continued on Page 15

## Letters

Continued from page 3

### I'm a YIMBY

I'm a "YIMBY." That means I say "yes in my back yard" when it comes to building more affordable housing or having a wider range of people able to live in my home neighborhood.

I don't look at it as a burden; I look at a project like Market Heights as an opportunity: for a few more of the great diversity of families and households now in San Francisco to remain here.

That's the San Francisco I want; that's the reason I moved here; and that's what we're losing as the cost of housing skyrockets. If part of the solution is happening "in my back yard," that's OK with me.

I also welcome the opportunity for input to guarantee a well-built development that respects street and traffic patterns. The commitment to quality and to the local environment of a non-profit developer like the BHCF is a welcome change from the ticky-tack too often slapped up (on our Hill and elsewhere) for a profit by quick-buck developers.

"Save the Farmers' Market" is a slogan that I'm seeing occasionally from a group of people who oppose this development. I like their buttons-who wouldn't want to save the Farmers' Market? Look at the plans; talk to the people involved; and you'll see no threat to the Market. In fact, this development could offer an opportunity to change some of the current choking traffic patterns, to fix up the rundown parts of the Market, and to eliminate the night time uses of the area that threaten neighbors' safety. On that, I know that we can all work together. - Richard Allman

### Get the Facts Straight

I am really upset at the attitude some residents of Bernal Heights are taking with regard to the BHCF's proposed housing down by Farmers' Market. Whoever these opponents are, they

certainly don't sound like the type of Bernal Heights people I am used to.

I have heard many distorted stories and untruths spread about the project and the BHCF, I have received flyers with no name, address or phone number stating the market would be destroyed by housing and other flyers urging me to "Save the Market." BUT, I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT THE MARKET IS NOT IN DANGER AND NEVER HAS BEEN, so it looks like the opponents are yelling "fire" when there is no fire just to get people who don't know the facts upset and excited.

Bernal Heights has always been a wonderful place where people really care about people. This proposal by the BHCF seems to me to really emphasize that. They will build housing working folks can afford and will also preserve and improve our Farmers' Market. And, they have a record of doing excellent work. So, I really don't know why these few people are running around screaming "fire" about the market when there is no fire. But, they certainly don't sound like Bernal residents. Why don't they get their facts straight before they attack a worthwhile foundation and proposal? - Mary Johnson

*I anticipate many letters to the NBJ for and against the proposed "Market Heights" development. In order to print as many different views as possible, please keep your letters brief and to the point. Anonymous letters will not be printed. As always, letters must be received by our submission deadline (deadline for our February/March issue is 1/12/91).*

- Editor

## Tackling Homelessness

### Interfaith Task Force in Bernal

By Tom Cantrell

How does one put a face on an anonymous social issue? The members of St. Anthony of Padua and St. Kevin's Parishes have an

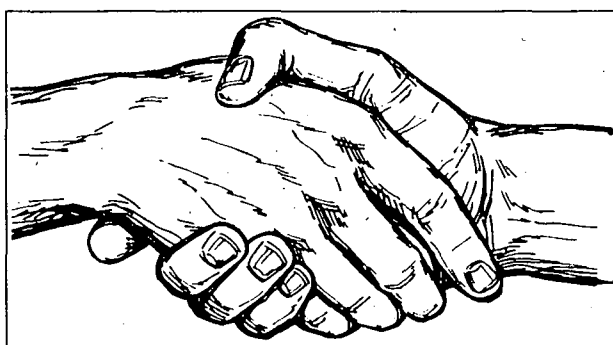
answer: open your door, your pantries and your hearts in order to provide shelter, meals and companionship for homeless men, women and children.

These two parishes are an integral part of the Mayor's Interfaith Task Force

on Homelessness which is coordinating the Interfaith Emergency Winter Shelter Program this winter. over 84 churches and synagogues, in partnership with the City, non-profit agencies, Episcopal Community Services, PG & E and Hills Brothers Coffee, Inc. will be providing clean and safe beds and dinners and breakfasts for up to 150 homeless men, women and children per night starting November 18th and running through March 16, 1991. The Interfaith Program to date has received financial support from the Koret and Swig Foundations and the Interfaith Task Force on Earthquake Recovery.

Sister Maria Elana Martinez is the coordinator for the efforts at St. Anthony's. In explaining the commitment of the St. Anthony's community to helping the home-

less people, she says, "In Spanish, we say "Ver, estar, y actuar." First, you must see the situation. next, you must judge the situation. In God's eyes, what is the best thing to do? Then you must act."



Through the Interfaith Shelter Program, the opportunity is presented for all of us to see, to judge through God's eyes, to act. Dan Rosen, coordinator for St. Kevin's, sees one value of the program being the expansion of the community of St. Kevin's into the wider neighborhood. The concept of who one's neighbor is becomes more inclusive. For Dan and the other members of St. Kevin's, this is the message of the Gospel. In carrying out this expression, homelessness is humanized, stereotypes are altered and we discover that homeless people are not any different from us - only their circumstances differ.

The Interfaith Emergency Winter Shelter Program operates as part of the City's comprehensive efforts to address the needs of the homeless people. In con-

junction with the recently opened multi-service centers for men and women and the planned center for families, we are one step, the beginning step, for those on the path to regaining an independent lifestyle. The interfaith commu-

nity provides for the basic needs of people caught in crisis: food and shelter. Building upon our efforts, the multi-service centers will offer the next steps: social workers, substance abuse counselors,

entitlements outreach counselors, showers, storage, toilets, phone and mail service, health practitioners, kennels and clothing.

St. Anthony's will be hosting the shelter for families from November 18th through December 2nd; St. Kevin's takes over December 3rd and continues through December 15th. Sister Maria Elena extends and invitation to the neighborhood to stop in any evening and see what is happening. If you are interested in helping, please call St. Kevin's at 648-5751, St. Anthony's at 647-2704 or Tom Cantrell, Interfaith Coordinator, at 557-5596.

Your way of participating is only limited by your imagination! Your participation is one door opening to the sojourner who is being welcomed home.

### The New Bernal Journal Needs YOU!

David Letterman's Top Five Reasons to Become a NBJ Distribution Captain:

- Reason #5: Your mother would be proud.
- Reason #4: It's fun, it's exciting and oh, so good for you!
- Reason #3: We don't rerun Herb Caen columns.
- Reason #2: The smell of fresh ink.
- Reason #1: Puppy breeding season's just around the corner!

Volunteer Distribution Captains are needed to deliver the NBJ to distributors in the following areas:

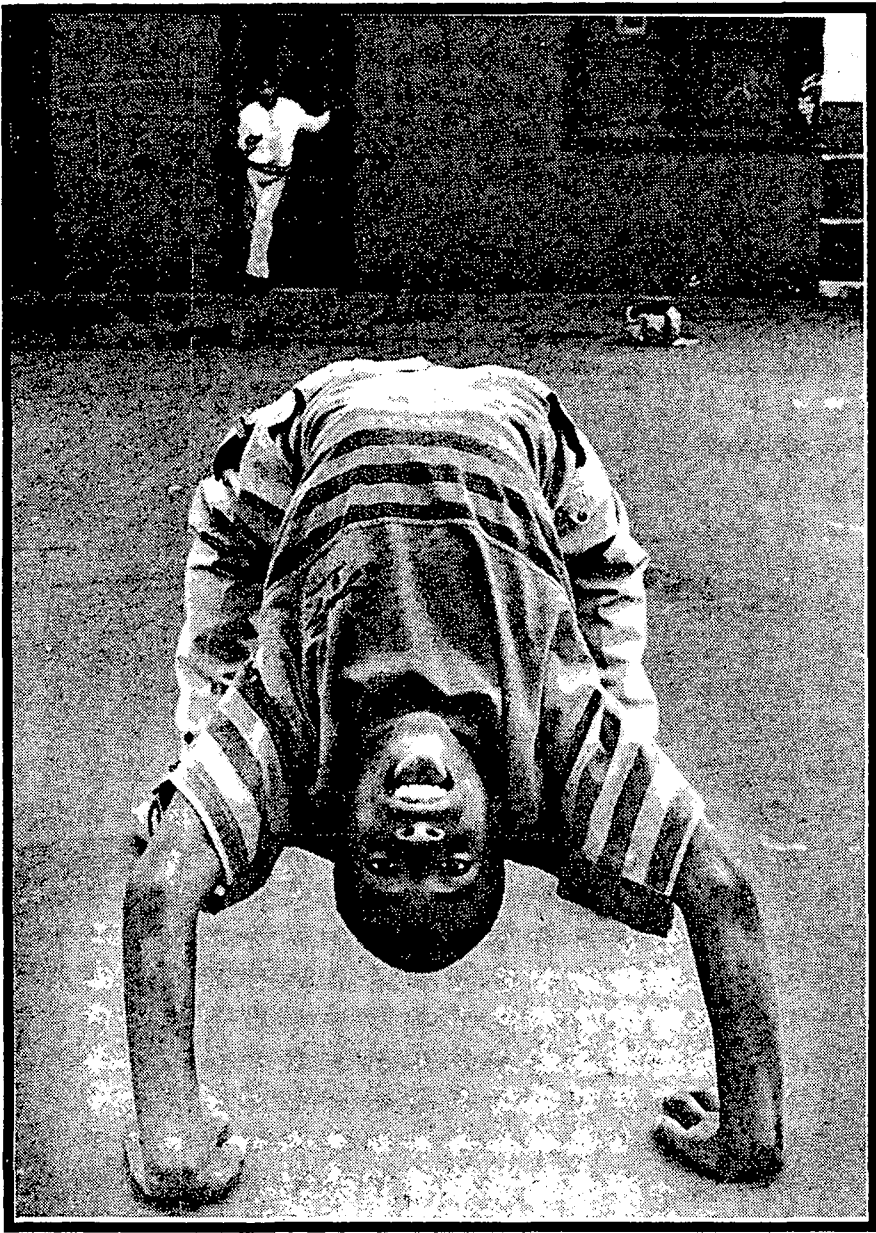
- Precita Park Area • South of Crescent Avenue •
- St. Mary's Area •
- Cortland Avenue to Crescent Avenue/Andover to Folsom •

**CALL TERRENCE: 695-9509**



# Youth Photo Essay

Photography & Text by Gennaro



Bill, age 12, likes gymnastics, baking cookies, baseball, football, basketball, pool, track, volleyball, and weight lifting. Arthur (background) does too.



I didn't get their names, they had more important things to do than waste time on me.



Their message was clear: "Bring the Troops Home."



Felix, age 13, is at his brother's football game, and among other things, loves sports.

I went to a Bernal Heights Community meeting where neighbors agreed that there is more violence and crime than ever before. Residents concluded that they needed more police "protection." I feel that police are negative and breed negativity and dissent in a community. But police are only part of the problem. The real problem is authority.

The violence occurs between authority and those without and between those who feel disenfranchised from the community and those who don't.

After that meeting, I spent some time out on the streets and in the youth centers around the hill. At first, I went and being the shy person that I am, quietly stood around with my camera not introducing myself or being overly friendly. I was met with hostility and threats: "Get out of here or I'll beat your ass!" "If you're a cop, why don't you arrest somebody and get out of here!" They didn't want anything to do with me because I was a potential threat - because I seemed like authority. But, as I felt more comfortable, I was more open, and I was no longer a threat. We were equals and they relaxed. This is the side that I tried to show in my pictures. These were the youth whose last thing on their mind was to be negative.

The youth don't need cops or rules, we need positive influence; tutors, energy, love. You can't buy love, but you can hire, say, another math teacher so that the kids can love math. Why not get more funding for these positive influences, instead of \$40,000 for another beat cop?

Photography By Gennaro: 648-6126



Vicky, Age 6

## Crime in Bernal - continue from front page

lessness of the victims, "The burglary's in progress, they state that the the burglary's in progress...and there's nothing that can be done? What more can these people do other than go out there and actually apprehend the individual?"

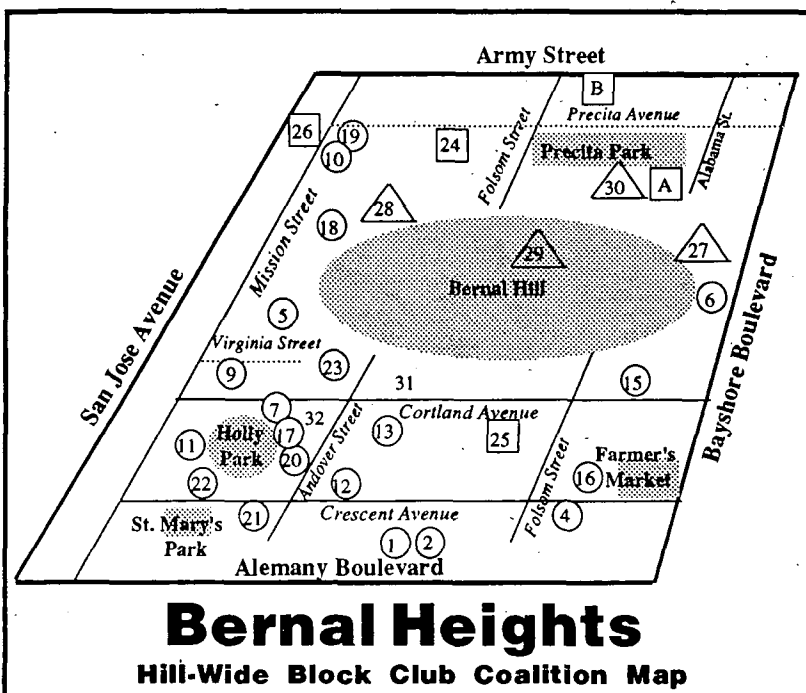
In frustration, as well as constructive action, more residents are organizing with a common plan of action to fight and solve problems in Bernal Heights called the "block club." Working with the police, residents feel empowered and see results. Philpott believes that the community's cooperation and enthusiasm to work and plan with the police department, as well as other city departments, has lead to the reduction of drug dealing and violence in troubled spots. A shining example of this cooperation is the Holly Courts Tenants and the South Bernal Neighbors who have reduced calls for police service in their area by 60%. Working with the Housing Authority, money was allocated to man the projects area, plagued with street drug dealing, with extra police.

Some feel that more police is not the answer, "I think that cops are negative enforcement. I think that we need more positive reinforcement," says new Bernal resident, Gennarro, "More cops doesn't show kids what they can do. It shows them what they can't do." He feels that if there are more police, they should be in positive activities, such as PAL (Police Activity League). Ocean View Park benefitted from the PAL Program, whose off duty officers would organize and coach sporting events and leagues with kids in a troubled area. In that park, the playing field soon became occupied with softball games and the gymnasium was no longer over run with drug dealers.

Reverend Carolyn Dyson, Vice-President of the BHCF Board of Directors agrees that positive role models are the important to the success of police work. She says that, "It only takes one bad apple" to ruin the enormous work being done by police in Bernal. "I saw a young, Hispanic man in the back of a police car on Anderson and Cortland Avenue," and having recognized him she thought, "My God, what is he doing in there?". As she approached the arresting officer, she was appalled by him, who knew her as a leader in the community, "Reverend Dyson, don't worry about it. It's nothing but one of our resident losers." Upon recalling that encounter, she reflected, "I have a problem accepting the fact we have 'resident losers' in Bernal Heights. I've watched this officer with other men of color and my concern is that with all the good work that the police is doing, it would take just this one bad attitude to start a bad bonfire in here in Bernal Heights."

Captain Philpott he has seen the change of "The New Police Department" which is the new crop of officers that are better trained and "By and large much more sensitive to the needs of the community, as they should be doing." Working with Captain Philpott to solve their problems, neighbors from Andover and Richland have formed a block club to combat the open drug dealing of that intersection. After having seen their children play on the same street that alcohol and drug abusers and dealers took over, the residents decided the take action. The block club's first victory was to remove the pay phone that was being used by the drug dealers. This small victory eased some of the drug activity, but the members knew that there was more to be done. "There's been no violent crime, but we're not wanting to wait around until that happens," says a block club member, "Despite Captain Philpott's best efforts, he clearly doesn't have the reinforcements he needs to deal with places, like ours, that have not yet totally escalated. We hope that we're not waiting for the body count to deal with the problem."

Many of the neighbors who attended the Police Commissioner's Meeting all praised Philpott for his outstanding work and willingness to work with neighbors and their block clubs. This overwhelming praise and admiration of Captain Philpott is well deserved. Since taking the reigns at the Ingleside Police Station, he has immersed himself in the neighborhoods of his district to find out the needs and concerns of its residents. He is impressed with communities like Bernal Heights, who have been organizing their own block clubs and tenants associations to better their living conditions. -Vicki Victoria



## Bernal Heights

Hill-Wide Block Club Coalition Map

## Bernal Hill-Wide Coalition

Bernal Heights has an impressive number of neighborhood groups from block clubs to tenants associations, organized and run by community members. This list can help you in your quest for neighborhood improvement, safety and community.

### Block Clubs, Tenants Associations, Neighborhood Groups:

1. **Alemanys Parents Group**  
Tiki Hadley: 552 Alemany Blvd.
2. **Alemanys Tenants Association**  
Alta Faye Scales, President  
978 Ellsworth St.
4. **Crescent Neighbors**  
Noreen Coats  
707 Crescent Avenue
5. **Coleridge Park Homes**  
June Keith, Manager  
190 Coleridge St.
6. **East Slope Neighborhood Comm.**  
Norma Planiczka  
2828 Folsom
7. **Ellert & Bocana Block Club**  
Mauricio Vela: 45 Ellert St.
9. **Eugenia Street Neighbors**  
Helen Helfer: 115 Eugenia
10. **Fair & Peters Avenue Block Club**  
Joe Pocoro: 32 Fair
11. **Holly Court Tenants Association**  
Bobl Washington, President  
195 Highland Avenue
12. **Moultrie & Crescent St. Neighbors**  
Michele Dickstein: 796 Moultrie St.
13. **Moultrie Street Neighbors**  
Carlos Lobo  
230 Moultrie Street
15. **Nebraska Street Block Club**  
Tim Griffin: 38 Nebraska
16. **Nevada/Putnam Neighbors**  
Lurilla Harris: 196 Putnam
17. **Newman/Bennington Neighbors**  
Lynn Scott: 117 Newman Street
18. **North West Bernal Block Club**  
Charles Bolton: 315 Virginia
19. **Powers Avenue Neighbors**  
Laura Sicara: 13 Powers Ave.
20. **Richland & Andover Block Club**  
Nuala McCarthy: 631 Andover
21. **Roscoe Street Block Club**  
Diane Alvarez: 56 Roscoe Street
22. **South Bernal Neighbors Assoc.**  
Michael Shay: 248 Richland
23. **Wool Street Block Club**  
Rick Palos: 13 Wool Street

### Service Organizations

24. **St. Anthony's Church**  
Fr. Michael Weldon, Pastor  
3215 Army St.
25. **St. Kevin's Church**  
Fr. James O'Malley, Pastor  
704 Cortland Ave.
26. **St. Luke's Hospital**  
Walter Kopp, Administrator  
3555 Army St.
- A. **Precita Valley Center**  
Reina Urbina: 534 Precita
- B. **Leonard Flynn Elementary School**  
Marlene Callejas: 3125 Army Street

### Committees & Boards

27. **East Slope Design Review**  
Terry Milne: 321 Rutledge
28. **North West Design Review Board**  
Dan McCullar: 107 Elsie St.
29. **Open Space Committee**  
Maurice Kelly: 282 Coleridge St.
30. **Precita Valley Committee**  
Gene Neilson: 3167 Folsom Street

### Merchant Associations

31. **Cortland Avenue Merchants Assoc.**  
Mike Callagy, President: 439 Cortland
32. **South of Army Mission Merchants Association**  
Phil Zamora, President: 3274 Mission

This list was compiled from community organizing information provided by the Bernal Heights Community Foundation, which is organizing the various neighborhood groups on the hill into a coalition called the "Bernal Heights Hill-Wide Block Club Coalition." If you or your neighborhood group would like to be a part of this new coalition, contact Mauricio Vela at the BHCF: 648-0330.

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## For Sale



Photo By Vicki Victoria

Left to right: Senior Advisory Council President, George Costuros, BHCF Board President Gerald Whitehead, Senior Program Volunteer Emma Houweling, BHCF Executive Director, Helen Helfer, Youth Program Worker Mike Garcia and Senior Program Staff Member Frances Spencer volunteer at the Hill-Wide Garage Sale.

The BHCF's "Hill-Wide Garage Sale" on October 13th involved over three dozen garage sales through out the hill. Money raised helped to pay for new lobby windows in the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. The BHCF would like to thank all who participated in this spirited fundraising event!



# Neighborhood Shopping Guide



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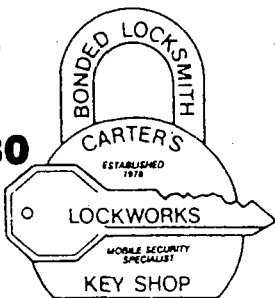
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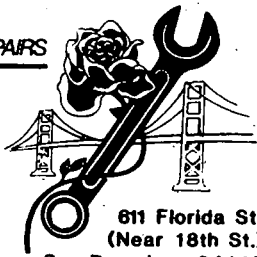
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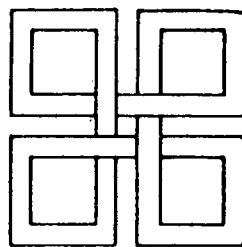
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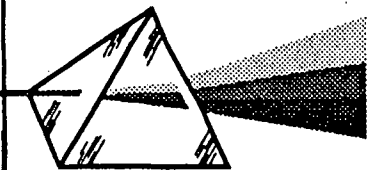


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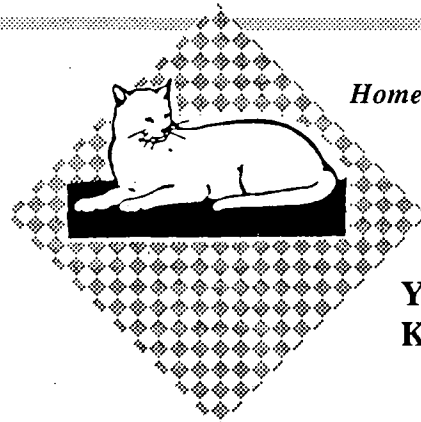
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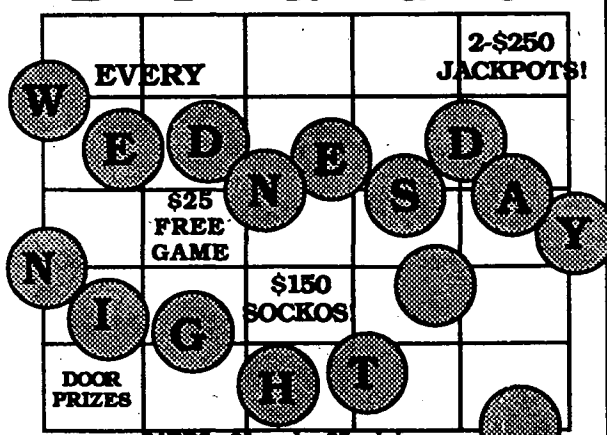
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# Community News

## Happy Birthday, Coleridge Park Homes!

Coleridge Park Homes celebrated its first year of providing 49 units of affordable housing for senior citizen and disabled tenants. Developed by the Bernal Heights Community Foundation and located directly above the Standard Brands Paint Store on Mission Street, this innovated project has won national awards for its unique and creative use of private commercial airspace for affordable housing. Cecilia Johanson is one of the 56 residents who is very appreciative of the safe and decent living conditions of Coleridge, "I use to live in Visitation Valley...it was not good. At Coleridge, I feel so secure and wouldn't be happy anywhere else."

While Coleridge provides the very important need for affordable housing in San Francisco, it also succeeds in breaking the negative stereotypes of low income housing. When given decent living spaces, residents take pride and care of their units. The only major crime problem that Coleridge has experienced was the theft of all of the fire extinguishers from the corridors of its senior citizen apartment building.



Tenants Velma Williams, Manager June Keith, Emmanuel Gousse, Cecilia Johnson and Mr. Gonzales celebrate at Coleridge.

Emmanuel Gousse, the gentleman with the perpetual smile at Coleridge also enjoys his new home and compliments the management of the units, "Management is very good, they are very good people who care about you." He refers to June and Gerry Keith the live-in building managers whose genuine care and concern for the Coleridge residents contributes to the development's first successful year. Born and raised in Bernal Heights, June's father ran a cigar store on Cortland Avenue near Folsom. Returning home to Bernal Heights to manage the Coleridge Park Homes is special to her, "We love the people who have not only become our friends, but also our relatives."

June would like to thank those who contributed to make Coleridge's Anniversary Celebration a big success!



Photo By Vicki Victoria

The Coleridge Park Homes has provided safe, affordable and quality housing for seniors.

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## South Bernal Neighbors' Holly Park BBQ

By Tim Molinare

On a sunny Saturday afternoon, October 27, the South Bernal Neighbors held a community BBQ at Holly Park as a way of getting neighbors in the area together for food and fun. About 50 people enjoyed great eats and conversation. The kids were busy all day at the playground and also at the crafts table.

As a new member of the South Bernal Neighbors I was impressed at the good turn out and that many new faces from the neighborhood took advantage of the chance to get to know their neighbors.

know each other." Bob suggested that the South Bernal Neighbors should work on a Earthquake preparedness project. Mary Cheng came with her brother Steven. She said the neighborhood seems real nice and appreciates having the park so close. She considers cutting crime and making the neighborhood safer something the South Bernal Neighbors could work on.

Michael Shay gathered us all around to say a few words. Michael said that the group is a collection of block clubs in the area working together with the Holly Court Tenants Association.

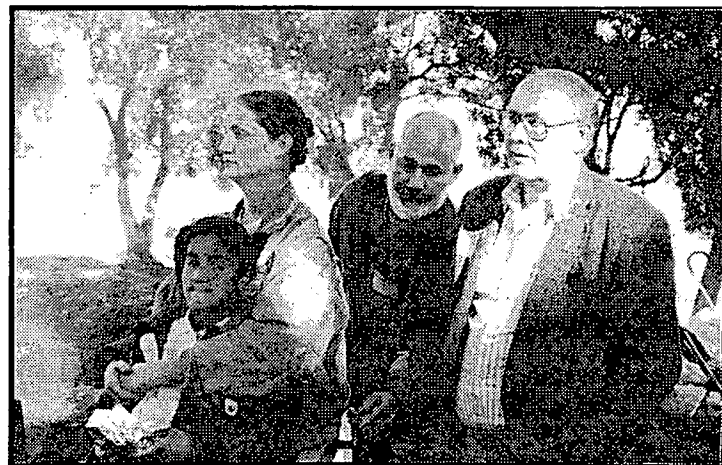


Photo By Helen Helfer

Kristin & Gloria Buck, Secretary, William Tupuola, Sgt. of Arms, Neil Seippel, Treasurer enjoy the neighborhood picnic.

Bob Ryan was there and said that this type of event is just the kind of thing that we neighbors should be doing. He has lived here all his life. Bob said: "There are people here today I've seen on my block but never even said 'Hi' to. We need to do this just to get to

The Richland Street Block Club is very active. There are people from the Newman, Andover and Bennington Street block clubs involved in the South Bernal Neighbors. He stressed how important the relationship is between the block clubs and the Holly Court Tenants, whose goal is to make Holly Court the best place to live in San Francisco.

Michael update the group on the recent victories South Bernal Neighbors have had in getting the Recreation and Park Department to keep the Holly Park bathrooms open and clean. They have recently re-sodded the baseball diamond. The Department has also promised to replace the wall near the playground.

Invited speaker, Kevin Shelley, a candidate for Supervisor, was instrumental in getting \$30,000 from the city to make improvements to Holly Court. He thanked the people from Holly Court Tenants for helping with his campaign and pledged to keep on top of the Housing Authority to provide Holly court with the resources they deserve, as well as continue to be an advocate for affordable housing if elected.

The neighbors thanked Suzan Meltesen for setting up the crafts table, William Tupuola of Holly Court Tenants for manning the BBQ fire and also to Mauricio Vela and Helen Helfer of the Bernal Heights Community Foundation for their support to South Bernal Neighbors over the past year and a half.

The South Bernal Neighbors is a good place for block clubs and for Holly Court tenants and neighbors to come together to get to know each other and work on the problems of the community.

## Macs for Kids

Paul Revere School Receives One of Twenty National Awards

By Vicki Victoria

Paul Revere Elementary School on Tompkins Avenue has educated many generations of Bernal Heights children. This year the school's education excellence was recognized through a grant from Apple Computers. Paul Revere was one of twenty schools nationally that was endowed with



Tomas Martinez and Alvaro Cordero say they enjoy the many different games that their computer can play.

several Macintosh computers for its students. Written by Librarian Barbara Dahl, Reading Resource Teachers Sharon McCarthy and Patricia Aleck and Principal Laura Fong, the "Apple Crossroads Grant" provides exciting, energetic integration of language arts and technological tools which brings experiences to students to enlarge their view on the world.

The students will benefit from such computer activities as problem solving games, field and library research, and independent reading designed to place the student in charge of his/her own learning.

Derald Cook's 3rd/4th grade Spanish Bilingual Class is very fascinated and excited about the computers. Crowding around the screen, Tomas Martinez says, "You can make all kinds pictures like dinosaurs, cars...the earth." Although very enthusiastic to have their turn at using the computers, each student politely waits their turn, holding back their excitement. "It's fun to make all kinds of things and there are so many buttons to press," says Jonte Amerzon.

The grant awards one computer in each second to fifth grade classroom at Paul Revere. This allocation means that 30 eager children will have to ration their computer time thinly to develop skills and learning. In an effort to ease this load, Paul Revere is also participating in Safeway Stores and Apple Computers' "Apples to Oranges" which awards a free computer to schools that collect \$125,000 worth of Safeway receipts. You can save your receipts to help the school reach its goal.



Photos By Vicki Victoria

Frances De Guia, Jonte Amerzon and Anna Perez learn to operate their school's new Macintosh Computer.

## Save Your Safeway Receipts!

Help our neighborhood schools to receive free computers from Apple Computers

Send your receipts to:

Paul Revere Elementary School  
555 Tompkins Avenue  
SF, CA 94110

or to: New Bernal Journal  
515 Cortland Avenue  
SF, CA 94110





Community News

An Open Letter to the Community

from Helen Helfer, Executive Director, Bernal Heights Community Foundation

This has been an exciting year of new challenges and program growth for the Bernal Heights Community Foundation. For neighbors who are not familiar with the work we do, or wondering about why we want to build affordable housing behind the Farmer's Market, here's an update on BHCF as well as some recent information about our unique neighborhood:

What is the Bernal Heights Community Foundation?

The BHCF was founded twelve years ago with a mission to empower people in efforts to preserve the ethnic, cultural, and economic diversity of our community, and improve the economic condition of low and moderate income people in Bernal Heights. This continues to be our mission. BHCF is a membership based organization and has a Board of Directors which reflects the area's unique ethnic and low/moderate income composition. We hold an Annual Congress every March to which every household in Bernal Heights is invited, and over 100 residents attend. The purpose of these large "town meetings" is to report to the community on our progress in each of our program areas, identify neighborhood needs, elect the BHCF Board of Directors, and network with other concerned neighbors and groups throughout our community. At our 1990 Congress eight new Board Members were elected, reflecting more closely than ever the racial composition of the neighborhood: 5 Black, 3 Hispanic, 2 Filipino, and 6 Non-hispanic White (two of whom are gay). Active Board Committees address three major focus areas in Bernal: Planning, Housing and Development; Youth; and Neighborhood Center/Outreach.

The Foundation's current staffing is composed of an Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director, Program Managers for our main activities, a fiscal manager, an executive secretary, and a part-time New Ber-

nal Journal editor. The staff is multi-racial and multi-cultural, with representation from Black, Asian, Latino, and White groups.

Our Neighborhood Center contains a kitchen, meeting rooms, and offices which are fully utilized by our own programs as well as many other neighborhood groups, such as the Girl Scouts, Narcotics Anonymous, East and South Slope Planning Committee, Cortland Merchants Association, and the Community Boards. The meeting rooms are generally booked most nights during the week. As a result, the facility serves as an important focal point for Bernal Heights residents of many interests and concerns. (If you would like to rent the Center for a special event or meeting, please contact either Mauricio Vela or Stella Loaisiga. New rate sheets can be easily mailed to you.)

Our Senior, Youth, and Community Programs are Growing

The number of registered members in our Senior Program has increased by 40% this past year. Attendance averaged 40 seniors daily, with over 10 frail elders being transported to the program 3 days a week.

We were one of six agencies in the Bay Area to receive a Frail Elders Grant from a consortium of Foundations which will allow us to serve home-bound seniors in the coming year.

Our youth job program referred over 221 Bernal residents to jobs last year. We now have a full-time Youth Job Developer, and just completed a training program for 35 youth who will be working after-school jobs during the school year. Fifty youth worked at Great America this past summer, and over forty other youth were placed in jobs around the city.

Our Hill-wide organizing campaign has grown to over 30 Block Clubs. Neighbors from all areas of the Hill have been meeting to share mutual concerns. Issues such as better police protection, tree planting and street

sweeping, and Recreation and Park Department problems have been addressed. If you'd like to start a Block Club in your area, or would like further information, please call Mauricio Vela at the Neighborhood Center.

Bernal Heights is a Unique Neighborhood

No resident who lives in Bernal needs to be told what an exciting and diverse community we have. Our neighborhood includes virtually all ethnic and racial groups - White (52.4%), Hispanic (32.5%), Black (10.3%), and Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, and Native American (4.8%). Housing on Bernal Heights is as varied as its residents, and is evenly split between owners (51.6%) and renters (48.4%). The majority of homes are single family (78.1%), with the rest multi-family. The majority of the homes were constructed prior to 1949 (79.4%). According to the 1989 Residence Element of the Master Plan, the median income in Bernal Heights in 1988 was 74% of the city-wide median. Incomes in San Francisco have increased only 68% from 1980 to 1989, while rents have increased 88% in approximately the same period.

Why Build More Affordable Housing Here?

Bernal Heights needs more family housing because family households in Bernal Heights comprise 80% of its population as compared to 43% family households city-wide (1980 census). Bernal Heights also has larger family households (3.60 persons per family household, 1980 census) than does the rest of San Francisco (3.20 persons per family household, 1980 census).

The median income in Bernal Heights is \$20,966, compared to a city wide median income of \$28,233 (Department of Labor Statistics, 1989). This annual household median income puts Bernal Heights in the bottom range of "Low Income" under HUD'S housing afford-

Alemany Angered Over "New Rules"

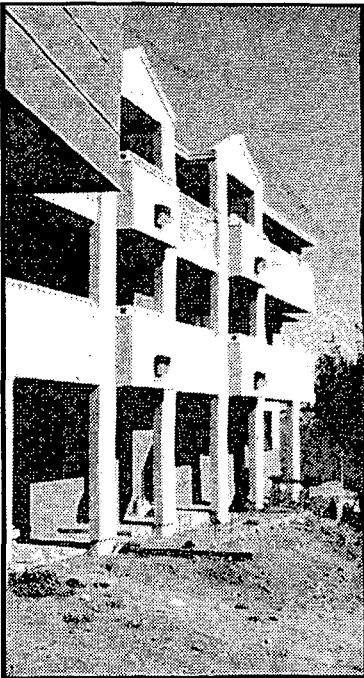
As the tenants of the Alemany Public Housing Projects receive the much needed rehabilitation work to their unit, they are faced some other changes.

The tenants are angered by the "new rules" that will be imposed on them by the Housing Authority. "They're basically against the constitution of the United States," says tenant Tiki Hadley.

Hadley sees the Housing Authority's "new rules" as ridiculous, containing such restrictions such as a 10:00 pm adult curfew, as well as the right for the Housing Authority to evict individual family members from the units.

The tenants also say that the "new rules" are discriminatory. For example, a person who is on parole or probation would automatically not be eligible for residency. In America, 33% of Black men are either in jail, probation or on parole. These men would not be allowed to apply or live with their families under the "new rules."

The "new rules" would also



Photos By Helen Helfer

Alemany Projects receives a face lift.

require mandatory home inspections that will determine whether a home is a "stable and harmonious home environment" and is a "decent, safe and sanitary" living condition. Tenants will be assessed for their "positive and negative behavior" and could face eviction if they do not meet these standards. The tenants wonder who are the judges.

Hadley says that the tenants have re-written the "new rules" to make them for fair and constitutional, as well contain the dignity and respect that is owed to all people.



BHCF Board Member Georgia Willette, Housing Authority Asst. Executive Director Karen Moon and Alemany Tenants Association President Alta Faye Scales attend the Alemany Open House to view two completed units.

LETTER...continued

blitiy standards (SF Dept. of City Planning: SF Housing Needs to 1995, 5/89). Home prices in Bernal have increased three hundred percent in the last decade.

The average median rent for 2 and 3 bedroom vacant apartments in Bernal Heights is \$910, and \$1225, respectively (Median Advertised Rent Study; BHCF, April 1990). These figures indicate that a family earning at median income would pay approximately 52% of their monthly income on housing for a 2 bedroom unit, and 70% of their monthly income on housing for a 3 bedroom unit. HUD standards consider housing affordable for a low income household if it consumes no more than 30 percent of the household's income. There is clearly a need for more affordable housing in Bernal Heights.

What Has the Foundation Done to Meet This Need?

To increase and preserve affordable housing in Ber-

nal, we've:

- Constructed the Holladay Avenue Homes, which enabled low-income families to be homeowners
- Built the Coleridge Park Homes, 49 apartments for low income senior citizens over the Standard Brands Paint Store on Mission Street which includes a community park and playground
- Renovated 72 homes in the neighborhood through our Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program and funnelled \$1.3 million in loans into the community.

As many residents know, we're currently proposing a 120 unit family housing development behind the Farmer's Market while improving the Market itself. (Please see New Bernal Journal October/November issue, page 1). We know this proposal has raised many concerns and we'd be glad to meet with any group to discuss those concerns, or send you the latest information. Please call us at 648-0330 to arrange a mutually convenient time. Together I believe we CAN meet the needs of our diverse community.

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center - Rental Fees (effective November 1, 1990)

| User                                                          | Dining Room |         | Upstairs Meeting Rm |      | Lobby   |      | Kitchen Full Use |       | Kitchen Warm-Up |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------|---------------------|------|---------|------|------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
|                                                               | FEE         | DEPOSIT | FEE                 | DEP. | FEE     | DEP. | FEE              | DEP.  | FEE             | DEP.  |
| Private Parties or Events One Time Use                        | \$50/hr     | \$300   | \$35/hr             | \$50 | N/A     | N/A  | \$50             | \$100 | \$30            | \$100 |
| Private Organizations Political Groups On-Going Usage         | \$30/hr     | \$100   | \$25/hr             | \$75 | \$15/hr | \$50 | same as above    |       |                 |       |
| Bernal Community Service Groups Non-Profit Orgs. On-Going Use | \$10/hr     | \$100   | 7.50/hr             | \$75 | \$5/hr  | \$50 | same as above    |       |                 |       |

# Youth page

## Community Youth Views

### We Are Killing Ourselves

By Howard Hill

I am presently attending Philip and Sala Burton Academic High School. I walk to school and have always been overwhelmed by the extra amount of pollution I have to breathe while passing the intersection of Bayshore and Industrial.

Pollution is one of the most sinister and widely ignored menaces to the nation's health. Millions of tons of auto-exhaust wastes are poisoning the air over the United States. Bronchial disorders associated with urban living have risen dangerously; and now the fumes pumped into the atmosphere by the hundreds of thousands of internal-combustion engines have been linked with lung cancer.

As auto traffic increases, it becomes more evident that the invisible auto fumes are causing a wide variety of ugly and unhealthy phenomena, ranging from crop damage to L.A. smog. Too much carbon monoxide emitted by cars causes dizziness and nausea, impairs judgment, and places stress on the heart. Carbon dioxide is not immediately dangerous, but it poses a long term threat.

During the past 100 years, the level of carbon dioxide



in the atmosphere has risen sharply, causing a "green house effect." Carbon dioxide traps the sun's heat, thereby raising the temperature of the Earth's atmosphere. In 1970 The Clean Air Act was passed. The act set deadlines for a 90 percent reduction of certain pollutants from new automobiles and also established pollution control for factories. In 1989, President George Bush proposed several revisions to The Clean Air Act, forcing automobile makers to further the reduction of pollutants from the cars they produce. Bush's plan would also require car makers to produce one million cars capable of running on fuels other than gasoline by the year 1997.

As concerned citizens, we must take measures to stop the deterioration of our air. We can start by using the transit system, carpool and even WALK!!

For info on our local transit system you can call: MUNI (415) 638-6864, SAM TRANS (415) 761-7000, BART (415) 788-2278.

### Drugs & Liquor

by Brenda Perdue

Drugs: Crack, Montone, Weed, Coke, Acid, etc.  
Liquor: Cisco, Bacardi Breezer, Eight Ball, Budweiser

Today's youth think that having fun has to involve drugs and liquor. These items listed above are some of the items that teenagers today use. Even some who haven't even made it to their teens get to use it to have fun. Most parties today and dances usually involve these things. That's one cause of fights that break out, because they make you act different. Drugs affect the way you act in many ways. It can fry your brain, slow your reactions down and it can be addictive. Liquor can ruin your liver and it can hype or slow down your reactions and it is also addictive. People could take advantage of you when using liquor or drugs. There are many activities that teenagers could get into. They could join some type of program at school or bring a group of friends together to form a club, afterschool.



Avonni Harris and Michelle Johnson.

Photo by Vicki Victoria

### Catholic Girl High Schools "The Closing"

by Marla Morales & Michelle Tentstons

Day by day our Catholic Girl High Schools are coming closer to the closing of their facilities. The number of these schools has decreased to three from ten. In our years of attending these schools, St. John's and St. Rose's have been closed. This subject is really sad. The decreasing number of our high school students, drop-outs, decreasing number of

applicants and higher tuitions also leads to these closings. After this year, only Mercy, I.C.A. and St. Paul's Catholic Girl High Schools will remain. Something must be done! We can't just sit here and watch our girl schools close. There must be a change.

As students who attend an all girls school, we feel that the perspective view of a girl who attends this type of school is different from that of society's. Society's view puts us into two big categories: you're either a "good girl" or a "bad girl." But we feel that this is wrong to put us into any category because not everyone fits into only two groups.

We feel that every person is their own person and that people shouldn't talk if they don't know what they're saying. It's like the blind leading the blind.

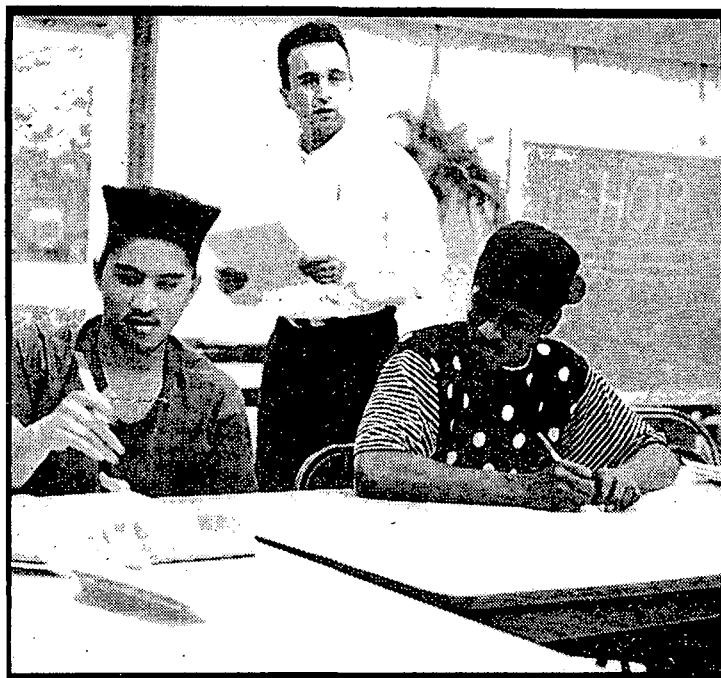


Photo by Vicki Victoria

Youth workers L and Raymundo and Lloyd Dilworth attend a Job Training workshop conducted by MYEEP Coordinator, Jose Leon (middle).

## Mayor's Youth Programs Getting Experience for Future Jobs

by Cherlene Yanga & Erin Keller

Youths in the world of today compared to the past generations are really striving to be independent. Here at the Bernal Heights Community Foundation, there is a great opportunity for students to get good afterschool jobs which will benefit them in the future. Experience is a necessity in most jobs in the 90's and the Mayor's Youth Program provides that.

Everyday after school, the students come to the Neighborhood Center and Jose Leon, Job Counselor, trains them and prepares them for jobs in which they will be assigned to. There are various job sites, depending on what they are interested in. In return, the students can show how hard of a worker they can be, they can gain experience and also learn how to act in a working environment. One of the students here in the program, Mark Halili says, "I am happy to be part of the Mayor's

Youth Program I really enjoy working with other students."

The Mayor's Youth Program is a wonderful idea in which students who find getting jobs a hard thing to do can change their views and be more positive about it. We here in the program are very fortunate to have found such a program and our greatest gratitude goes out to the Mayor and everyone else who helped to originate the Mayor's Youth Employment Program.

## Community Service Today

By James Cuellar, Howard Hill, Lloyd D. & Donald Wilson

Community service varies from helping a neighbor or helping a center. The main word helping does not always mean doing



Jose Marquez, Erin Keller and Yaneth Herrera.

Photo by Vicki Victoria

hard boring work for others; it means working with someone and sharing your talents and skills. You can also benefit from the community service. New things are open to you such as free memberships to museums or businesses and also benefits from other related business and even future post school jobs.

Many doors are open to you, but the main thing you should get from community service is SATISFACTION. Satisfaction may come from helping teach a child how to read or how to write. The satisfaction in keeping a class of children occupied all day or helping a senior citizen. With the many types of volunteers jobs and services, you're sure to find one that is interesting and rewarding.

We are speaking from past experiences. Community service has helped us to get a real edge on life. It has also given us a lot of things in return.

The New Bernal Journal welcomes stories, speeches, poems, drawings, activity schedules, announcements and other related youth written/created pieces for our Youth News section. Submissions should be typed or printed clearly. Deadline for our February/March 1991 issue is January 12th.



# Senior page



Bernal senior citizens attend the Bernal Heights Frail Elder Services Coalition's Meeting to give their input about the needs of elders in our community and also to offer their volunteer assistance.

## Gifts on the Hill Cortland Avenue Store Run by Bernal Seniors



Photo by Vicki Victoria

Salespersons Julia Tarango & Ana Diffut invite you to come in and browse at their many items.

"Gifts on the Hill" is a fundraising store to benefit senior citizen events and activities in our community. Beautiful handmade decorations, placemats, tote bags, pillows, pot holders and more are sold at old fashioned prices. The store also has many second hand treasures and other curiosities for reasonable prices. A big selection of almost new sweaters, coats, pants, blouses and hats are also for sale starting at 50¢.

Visit this very special holiday store in November and December, as it is a temporary project of the Bernal Seniors and will close after the Christmas Holiday. Your purchases will help to produce many senior citizen activities such as the popular Monthly Birthday Party & Dance which is admission free for all seniors to enjoy live music, dancing and socializing.

As you walk down Cortland Avenue, you get a feeling of Christmas as you pass the store at 513 Cortland. The colorfully lit Christmas tree, silver garland and snow lined windows gets your attention and curiosity. Upon entering the door, you're greeted by the smiling faces of members of the Bernal Heights Senior Program, ready to show off their handmade holiday gifts and crafts.

"Gifts on the Hill" is a fundraising store to benefit senior citizen events and activities in our community. Beautiful handmade decorations, placemats, tote bags, pillows, pot holders and more are

By Vicki Victoria

The Bernal Heights Community Foundation (BHCF) received a \$64,000 grant award from the Kaiser Family Foundation, Koret Foundation and The San Francisco Foundation's Bay Area Independent Elders Program to organize a community coalition and assess the needs of frail elderly in Bernal Heights. The generous grant was one of ten awards given to various Bay Area community service agencies for their projects that would help elderly people live healthy and independent lives in their own home, allowing the dignity and freedom to chose their own lifestyle.

The "Bernal Heights Frail Elderly Services Coalition," organized by the BHCF hopes to draw support and participation from various Bernal services, organizations, merchants and neighborhood volunteers to canvass the community and speak with frail elders and their caretakers about their needs. Non-traditional means of support for the elderly will be developed on a community wide level. This net-

work of community support includes the local mail carrier, grocery store or bank branch who will be informed of services for elderly persons and also trained in how to observe and refer or report a situation of an elderly person that may need aid or services. Bernal Heights as a community can take an active, organized role in solving the problem of taking care of our community's elderly through collaborative planning through a coalition that will utilize its own resources from churches to shops and from block clubs to individual neighbors.

The term "frail elderly" generally refers to an older person who has great difficulty taking care of basic living needs such as meals, cleaning, and shopping due to their diminished physical or mental abilities that occur with aging. A "caretaker" is a family member, neighbor or friend who assists with daily tasks such as cooking, personal hygiene, medication, financial matters or housecleaning. Traditionally in our society, our elderly were taken care of by their own children as they grew frail. Today, in tougher economic times when both hus-

band and wife must work to raise a family, afford housing and food, the issue of care for the elderly of our community becomes a growing one. Most families can't afford the expensive or impersonal care of most convalescent or nursing homes for their parents.

The Bernal Heights Frail Elderly Services Coalition will interview both frail elderly and their caretakers to find out ways that can ease the burden and difficulty of home care and receiving currently available services by making information and programs more readily and easily available. The assessment will also discover what additional services and programs are needed to allow an elder to remain healthy and independent in their home. This "needs assessment" will be conducted by a skilled social worker for the first year of the grant award. Based on the findings and information of the assessment, the coalition will apply for second year funding to secure a case manager to implement needed services and programs in Bernal Heights through its coalition and network of volunteers and community services.

### If you would like to become involved with the Bernal Heights Frail Elders Services Coalition please return this form or call us at 648-0330.

Please indicate your interests:

- ☐ I am a frail elder who would like to express my needs and receive information and referral to meet these needs.
- ☐ I am a caretaker who would like to express my needs and receive information and referral to meet these needs.
- ☐ I am a community organization/business/program that would like to become involved in helping the frail elders of our community.
- ☐ I am a neighborhood resident who would: ☐ like to refer a neighbor ☐ like to become involved

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

SEND TO: Bernal Heights Frail Elders Services Coalition  
515 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110

## Senior Activities for December

**Christmas Boutique**  
Sun., December 2nd  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Holiday cheer, Arts & Crafts, gifts and games will fill our center as you enjoy a delicious Pancake Breakfast or Ham Lunch. Santa Claus himself will be at our Boutique all day to talk with children of all ages. Admission free.

**Birthday Party & Dance**  
Mon., December 17th  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Dance to the sweet sounds of "Johnny Vallelunga & His Band" as you celebrate the birthdays of our December celebrants. Held in the St. Kevin's Church Hall on

Ellsworth Street and Cortland Avenue. Admission is free!

**Pickle Family Circus**  
Thurs., December 20th  
11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Join our Van Outing to the Palace of Fine Arts where we'll enjoy a holiday performance by delightful performers. Free!

**Christmas Party**  
Mon., December 24th  
10:30 am

Celebrate the joy of the season with your friends at the Senior Program. Carolling, Kris Kringle Gift Exchange and good cheer for all. Free.

**New Year's Eve Party**  
Mon., December 31st  
10:30 am

Ring in the New Year at our noon time count down. Welcome 1991 with song and refreshments with your friends. Free.

All senior activities are held the Bernal Heights Senior Program at 515 Cortland Avenue, unless otherwise noted. Trips require sign ups in advance. For a complete schedule of senior citizen activities in Bernal Heights, come by and pick up our Monthly Newsletter or call us at 648-0330 to have one mailed to you.



Photo by Vicki Victoria

The Bernal Heights Senior Program Arts & Crafts Class prepares for their Annual Quilt Raffle at their Christmas Boutique on December 2nd. This year's colorful quilt was coordinated by Frances Spencer.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### HOME CARE & IMPROVEMENT

**Reliable Painter:** Quality work, reasonable prices, interior/exterior. References available. No job too big or too small. Call James: 282-1544.

**Window Repairs:** Broken glass, ropes, and putty replaced. Weather-strip doors, small carpentry and painting jobs. I am always on time. City Window Service. 337-9327.

**STAR Housecleaning** with extra care. Experienced, reliable, and thorough. Call Pat at 550-7103.

**Bay Wolf Construction.** Remodeling, Repair. 20 years experience. Finish and Rough Carpentry interior/exterior a speciality. References. General Contractors licenses #597521. Bob Forrer 824-1082.

**Amir Window Washing Company:** Free estimates, inside, outside, homes, shops, all glass. Neat and reliable. Call 826-8958. Ask for Amir.

### HEALTH & FITNESS

**Alexander Technique** can help you become aware of habits of movement that lead to back pain, stiff neck. Learn ease of movement. Call Nora Nausbaum, certified S.T.A.T., N.A.S.T.A.T., 641-1371 for more information.

**Alexander Technique:** Enjoyable approach to body mechanics, positive thinking and centered posture. In Bernal Heights 647-8510. Also call about a Walking Group.

### OPPORTUNITIES

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## Hill-Wide Block Club Coalition Takes On Recreation & Park

By Mauricio Vela

After successfully receiving additional police services (efforts initiated by the North West Bernal Block Club), and becoming the next community in line for the SFPD's CPOP expansion (beat cop on Cortland Ave.), the Hill-Wide Block Club coalition decided to deal with the issue of Bernal parks and playgrounds. All of the Bernal parks need some immediate attention so a list of concerns was made and forwarded to Mary Burns, General Manager of the S.F. Recreation & Park Department. She agreed to attend a meeting on November 20, 1990 and address the coalition's concerns. On November 20, 1990, Mary Burns along with Joel Robinson, Superintendent of Recreation, Ron de Leon, Superintendent of Maintenance, and Paula Hamilton, Area Supervisor for Bernal Playgrounds (Bernal, Holly Court, St. Mary's) attended the meeting which was attended by thirty five neighbors which represented 12 of the 30 Bernal neighborhood groups.

At issue was public safety in the parks and specifically in the Childrens Areas, community renovation input, maintenance of both equipment and facilities, staffing, adoption of Coleridge Park, and the renaming the Esmeralda stairs. Captain Philpott of Ingleside Police station gave a report that a special patrol car

would continue to patrol Precita, Esmeralda stairs, Bernal Playground, and Holly Park attempting to push out the adults that drink alcohol in the Children's area. Philpott also stated that a



suspect had been arrested in relation to the murder that took place at St. Marys Park on June 30, 1990. Maintenance emerge as the next issue which neighbors had concerns at each of the parks. Precita, and the Bernal Playground both are in need of new sand in the children's area. There have been complaints by parents that their children are physically playing in glass. Throughout the process it became evident that Bernal playground located at Moultrie and Jarboe was the worst park in Bernal Heights in regards to mainte-

nance and use. St. Mary's had the least number of complaints and that may be because it is the satellite center for this area which means it has the most staff and best facilities.

Rec. & Park refuse to adopt Coleridge Park unless there is an endowment as part of the gift. The issue of renaming Esmeralda mini-park, was redirected to the Department of Public Works who are responsible for the mini-park. Overall Mr. de Leon of Rec. & Park agreed to investigate the coalition's concerns, and report back at the next coalition meeting tentatively scheduled for January 23, 1991. The programmatic side of Rec. & Park was not address as thoroughly as possible so this item will be addressed at the next meeting.

The goal of the Bernal Heights Hill-Wide Block Club Coalition is to bring together the Bernal Heights neighborhood groups to deal with common issues. It is also the goal of the coalition to create a "Hill-Wide" perspective and get to know one another as neighbors and when possible to participate in joint activities. On the agenda for the January meeting are a Bernal Public Safety report, a report back from Rec. & Park, discussion of a joint activity, and a presentation on Bernal zoning. For more information contact Mauricio Vela at the Bernal Heights Community Foundation at 648-0330. Together we can make a difference.

### Market Heights

#### Continua

alquiler." La compañía directora establece a fondo las declaraciones de los solicitantes de ser "buenos inquilinos" chequeando sus entradas y pidiendo dos recomendaciones del presente y pasado casero. También disponen una visita a la residencia actual del aplicante para inspeccionar y valorar su cuidado y mantención de la casa. Caritas dice que la corporación hace tan exigente proceso para "Derrotar la idea de que la gente que vive en las viviendas al alcance son malos inquilinos."

Una madre condos hijas Carmi Johnson vive en Potrero Hill y estudia para ser ingeniero estacionario. Ella disfruta del Farmer's Market y está segura que no será afectado. L seguridad de ella misma y sus hijas es lo que

le interesa al aplicar por Market Heights. "Quiero salir de este vecindario más que todo por el crimen. Deseo vivir en una comunidad donde mi carro sera parqueado en seguridad y donde mis hijas puedan jugar afuera en seguridad."

#### City Tow -Continua

año a horas más tarde. En la Víspera y Día de Navidad y Víspera y Día de Año Nuevo, los residentes de la Ciudad que hayan bebido mucho pueden llamar al City Tow a cualquier hora y un camión del City Tow llevará el carro y su guiadora a casa en seguridad, gratis.

El ervicio Mistle Tow estará disponible dentro de los límites de la ciudad de San Francisco a todas horas de día y la noche la víspera y el Día de Navidad y la víspera y el Día de Año Nuevo. El número a llamar es: 558-7400.

### Guia - Continua

El folleto de 56 paginas provee información dirigida al cliente en más de una docena de programas de ayuda en alimento, apoyo en las entradas, y cuidado de la salud, incluyendo los cupones de comida, WIC, AFDC, Seguro Social, Medicare, Medicaid, y otros servicios. La lista de Condado por Condado de la mayor parte de los programas se provee para uso de las familias con entradas bajas.

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# Astro-Rap

by Jessica Murray

This is one year that ought to go out with a bang. New Year's Eve 1990 falls on a full moon, which is a rare enough happening to warrant astrological attention all by itself. But even more striking is the coupling in the



sky on that day of the sun with the revolution planet, Uranus.

Uranus is associated with sudden disruption, and it is said to govern events which jolt us out of our routines. It brings brilliant inventions and futuristic visions to the complacent human mind. It also manifests as ugly shocks and

manifestation of a transit this strong can come to us only one way: by each person cultivating flexibility, and staying awake on all levels.

For astrological classes and consultations, call Jessica Murray at 626-7795

natural cataclysms. By definition, Uranus is unpredictable. Since nothing is fated, it is impossible to know in what form the Uranian surprises will occur. But ancient wisdom tells us that the most positive

## Precita Park - Continued from page 5

wants - and one that meets the city codes so that it is accessible to all. Improvement planning for Precita Park began a couple of years ago and actual construction will not begin until next year. Chiosso says, "Initially, the neighborhood makes a request and we have series of meetings in the community to see what they want and help them to focus their needs." Chiosso says that this process is important, so that the after the designs are drawn and the money is on line, another group doesn't come in to the planning with a totally different ideas and plans. Rec & Park is planning another meeting with Precita neighbors in January or February when their draftspeople have drawn up a blueprint to present to the neighbors, based on their requests.

Jean Nielson and Mark Christian, Co-Chairs of the Precita Valley Committee have been instrumental in coordinating neighbors in the area to be involved with the project. The Precita Valley Committee was originally organized by Fr. Michael Weldon of St. Anthony's Church to unite neighbors in the area to address and deal with the defacement of their property, due to graffiti. The Committee is optimistic that Rec & Park will re-design Precita Park to meet the needs of their neighborhood.

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## Merry Christmas From the New Bernal Journal!

Our Christmas List to You:

### TREECYCLING:

Recycle Your Christmas Tree! Turn your old Christmas trees into ground chips that can be returned to Mother Nature and used as garden mulch. Treecycling saves landfill space and is a fun way to reuse a valuable resource. Make it into a family event!

#### Third & Army Streets:

SF Community Recyclers, 701 Amador. Recycle trees January 6th - 13th Mondays, Thursdays & Fridays. Your will receive a free tree seedling for bringing in your Christmas tree to this location.

#### Armstrong off Third Street:

LNK Debris Box, 1313 Armstrong Street. Drop off your tree anytime in January, Monday thru Friday, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm or 8:00 am - 1:00 pm on Saturdays. For more locations, call the TREECYCLING Hotline at: 553-6950

### CITY TOW:

#### Free Missetow Service

San Francisco's Official Police Garage will be encouraging safe merrymaking this holiday season with its ride-and-tow-home service. On Christmas Eve and Day and New Year's Eve and Day, residents of the City who have had too much to drink can call The City Tow at any time and a City Tow truck will take car and driver home safely for free. The number to call is 558-7400.

### SANTA CLAUS IN BERNAL HEIGHTS!

The Bernal Heights Senior Program is hosting their Annual Christmas Arts & Crafts Boutique, featuring Santa himself! Children can talk with Santa Claus on Sunday, December 2, 1990 from 9:00 - 4:00pm at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Avenue in San Francisco.

### EAST SLOPE DESIGN REVIEW BOARD- Annual Election Meeting

Mon. December 10th at 7:00 pm at the Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Avenue. All Bernal residents of the East Slope are invited to attend and vote for reps who review building and development projects on the eastern part of our hill. Further Information call Terry Milne: 285-8978.

## Health Focus

### Teas Safe For Children

By Jeanette Conley, RN

Children drink teas of all flavors. They will sometimes drink tea that is very bitter and not tasty to adults. Here are some guidelines. All formulas and teas maybe sweetend with honey:

**Nutritive Tonics** ( any combination of following) - Take Dandelion leaf or root, Stinging Nettles, mints, red clover blossoms, marshmallow roots/leaf, coriander, fennel or anise, rose petals, burdock root, fresh parsley or chickweed. Fresh plants are best. Crush all plants, place in water four inches above plants, sit at room temperature for eight hours or make sun tea. Shake occasionally, filter and press.

**Nervous Conditions** - Teas: mints, chamomile, catnip, lavender, hops, crushed oats. Pour into two cups of boiling water. Let seep for fifteen minutes.

**Colds & Flu** - Two teaspoons of freshly grated ginger, 1/4 of a freshly squeezed lemon mixed in warm apple juice or cider.

**Fevers** - Use Elder Flower or Lemon Balm with ginger and lemon water.

**Sore Throats and Cough** - Cloves or garlic packed in a jar of honey can be set in a sunny or warm place. Add Spikenard, coltsfoot leaves or wild cherry bark.

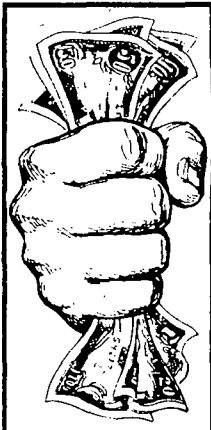
**Allergies** - Nettles capsules or fresh plant tea. Slippery elm, gruel and Oats tea.

**Digestive Tonics** - A combination of dill, fennel seeds, anise seed and peppermint. Add a mild amount of ginger, lemon balm and camomile.

Jeanette Conley, RN, operates The Emerald Edge at 737 Cortland Avenue: 647-6556

## Money Matters

By Jeffrey Bachman



So you have a dream, right? A good idea—maybe for a business, maybe a new house, maybe fixing up your old house. What's between you and the realization of your dream? How many times is the answer, "MONEY?" We all know about money...if you've got it, it's easy to get more and if you don't, good luck.

The Community Reinvestment Act of 1978 (CRA) was designed to encourage banks to keep money in their local service areas instead of loaning it in potentially more profitable (and riskier) ventures elsewhere.

Federal regulators now monitor lending activity by census tract and zip code to make sure that banks do not discriminate against low and moderate income neighborhoods. Bernal Heights is one of those neighborhoods.

Until very recently, CRA monitoring has not produced the intended results except in a few isolated instances. Now, however, the rating each bank is given is a matter of public record. You can walk into any branch of any bank and ask for the CRA statement. It will tell you all of the special opportunities available to the community. It will also tell you the banks rating. If you are doing business with a bank that does not have a high rating, you might want to reconsider which financial institution to use. you can also ask the branch for the CRA file which contains all the correspondence the bank has received and written regarding its CRA position. If you fell as though you have been discriminated against by any financial institution, I encourage you to write a letter to that bank, so that your complain will be entered into the CRA file. When banks are not in compliance with CRA standards, they can not have their charters renewed, nor can they buy other banks. This is very real incentive for banks to maintain or improve their ratings.

The Bernal Heights Community Foundation is now actively participating with the California CRA Committee. The Committee publishes a position paper, meets with senior bank officers to help them write their CRA Goals, and meets regularly to monitor compliance. In some cases, constant offenders of the spirit and the letter of this law are challenged by the committee. The bank must then prove to the federal regulators that they are acting in accordance with the law. Until the challenge is resolved, the bank's business activities outside of its normal operations are restricted.

Examples of CRA activity include construction loans and permanent financing for the creation of new, affordable housing, relaxed underwriting policies for those families earning 50 to 80% of the area median income when they apply for loans, reduced fee checking accounts for seniors, small business loans (especially those under \$20,000) and keeping branches open which serve a low-income community but may not be a profitable as the bank would like.

Some banks have better records than others. Would you like to know which banks are there to help you realize your dreams and which ones don't give a #\$\$@%\*? If there's enough interest, this column could become a regular feature of the *New Bernal Journal*. Call the *New Bernal Journal* at 648-0330 or write to us to let us know.

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## Noticias de la Comunidad en Español

### Desarrollo de Vivienda A Su Alcance Market Heights

Traducción: Carmen Muñoz

El asunto del Desarrollo de Vivenda A Su Alcance Market Heights ha tenido a Bernal Heights alarmado durante los últimos varios meses. La Fundación de Comunidad de Bernal Heights (BHCF) planea construir 120 casas y apartamentos de alquiler a su alcance para familias de trabajadores - sobre el lote de parqueo atrás del Farmer's Market en Alemany y Bayshore Boulevards.

El temor y enojo inicial de los residentes del área del Farmer's Market se originó en la ausencia de información proveída por la BHCF acerca del proyecto de vivienda a su alcance. Inicialmente, los oponentes al desarrollo pensaron que la BHCF estaba construyendo otro proyecto de vivienda pública como el que existe en los Proyectos de Vivienda de Alemany. En una reunión pública el 8 de Octubre, este temor y enojo fueron expresados cuando los oponentes expusieron su preocupación acerca de tener "esa gente" en su vecindario. Una carta anónima entregada a los residentes de Bernal Heights antes de la reunión encarecía a los residentes asistir a la reunión pública si ellos se oponían al plan porque "crímenes, violencia y problemas relacionados con drogas empeorarán," y que ésta era la última oportunidad de salvar al vecindario.

Gerald Whitehead, el Presidente de la Mesa Directiva de la BHCF ve esta reacción de los oponentes como "Una actitud general de la clase media que no quiere vivienda a su alcance en su vecindario." El dice: "Se necesita una tremenda cantidad de Educación para informar a esta gente que las personas de bajas entradas no son diferentes a ellos." Whitehead se preocupa que el modelo de gente de bajas entradas sea asociado con las drogas. Whitehead sacude su cabeza en desmayo, diciendo que esta clase de prejuicio existirá siempre y no puede cambiarse. "Pero aún más importante, la vivienda al alcance se necesita urgentemente por los niños de nuestra ciudad. Los niños que hoy viven en viviendas de bajo nivel van a crecer como los adultos de mañana. Ellos necesitan un lugar seguro y decente para vivir y crecer."

Hay un aspecto del desarrollo del proyecto donde ambos lados están de acuerdo: que el Farmer's Market es un magnífico lugar para experimentar el placer de compras al aire libre, -una gran variedad de frutas y vegetales son a bajos precios- y la habilidad de conocer a los agricultores que cultivaron los productos. En un Sábado soleado, cada sección y lugar de parqueo está ocupado y miles de personas compran pro-

ductos frescos para sus familias. Derek Rainer, quien vive arriba de área del mercado en la Calle Bronte dice: "los Sábados por las mañanas, el mercado es un lugar vivo, excitante y vibrante. Desafortunadamente, como es inevitable, también el lugar tiene congestión de tráfico y contaminación. Básicamente, seis días a la semana, es un lugar poco atractivo, con un lote de parqueo cubierto de basura y no utilizado." El dice que le preocupan los argumentos expresados por los oponentes al proyecto quienes dicen que destruirá el Farmer's Market. "El Plan de Market Heights dispone la mejora de las secciones del mercado, embellecimiento del lugar y regulación del tráfico. Esta propuesta es atractiva y tiene el factor extra de mejorar una área de problema. Esto puede ser una situación donde todos ganan."

Carita Management Corporation serán los planeados directores del nuevo desarrollo de vivienda. Sus chequeos extensivos de los antecedentes haría imposible los "malos inquilinos" en Market Heights. Frank Santiago, de Caritas, dice: "Nosotros escudriñamos los datos de las cortes para estar seguros que usted no haya sido desalojado por abusar o vandalizar sus pasadas unidades o que repetidamente fallara en pagar su

Continúa en Page 14

### City Tow Ofrece Servicio Mistletoe Gratis

Es tiempo de Mistletoe en el City Tow. El Garaje Oficial de la Policía de San Francisco patrocinará alegría sana durante la estación festiva con su servicio de transporte y empaque a casa, este

Continúa en pag 14

### "GUÍA PARA LA GENTE"

Disponible en Español

La versión de Octubre de "Cómo obtener Alimento y Dinero": La Guía para la Gente para obtener Welfare y Otros Servicios en California" está ahora disponible en Español.

Continúa en pag 14

### Market Heights

#### Viviendas De Bajos Costo Para Familias

Bernal Heights Community Foundation esta proponiendo un proyecto de vivienda con un valor razonable para familias cerca del Farmers Market. Si usted cree que califica para una de las unidades y le gustaría tener mayor información, favor llenar esta forma y enviarla por correo a: BHCF, 515 Cortland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94110 648-0330.

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Para Mayor Información en Español, favor llamar al teléfono: 648-0330